

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

155 US \$2.25



SEGA®

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



...Alone

KNOCK KNOCK

ENTER, COMMANDER!

I'VE BROUGHT YOUR EVENING NIGHTCAP, SIRE!

THANK YOU, ANTOINE.

ZHINGS DIDN'T GO VERY WELL WITH KING LEONUS TODAY, DID ZHEY, SIRE?

THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY!

WE'RE HAVING A HARD TIME CONVINCING ANYONE OVER HERE TO JOIN OUR COALITION!

CONSIDERING ROBOTNIK HAS HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN ZIS SECTION OF MOBIUS--

--ZAT EES NOT SURPRISING, SIRE!

AHH, ZAT'S IT! DRINK IT ALL DOWN!

IS SOMETHING ZEE MATTER, MY KING?

ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL!

I MUST BE MORE TIRED --THAN I THOUGHT!

CAN HARDLY--KEEP MY EYES --OPEN--

YOU JUST REST, NOW, SIRE, WHILE I STAND GUARD OUTSIDE!

YES-- YOU DO-- THATTT-- ZZZZZ...

LITTLE DOES ZEE KING OR ANYONE ELSE SUSPECT--

"--ZAT SOON I WILL RULE OVER
ZEE KINGDOM OF ACORN--"

"--AND NOT EVEN ZAT PIG
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
CAN STOP ME!"

SPEAKING OF WHICH,
JUST OUTSIDE OF
KNOTHOLE PROPER,
WE FIND...

SONIC!

HEY!
I'VE BEEN
LOOKING ALL
OVER FOR
YOU!

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Leffler and Dyna Lopez at
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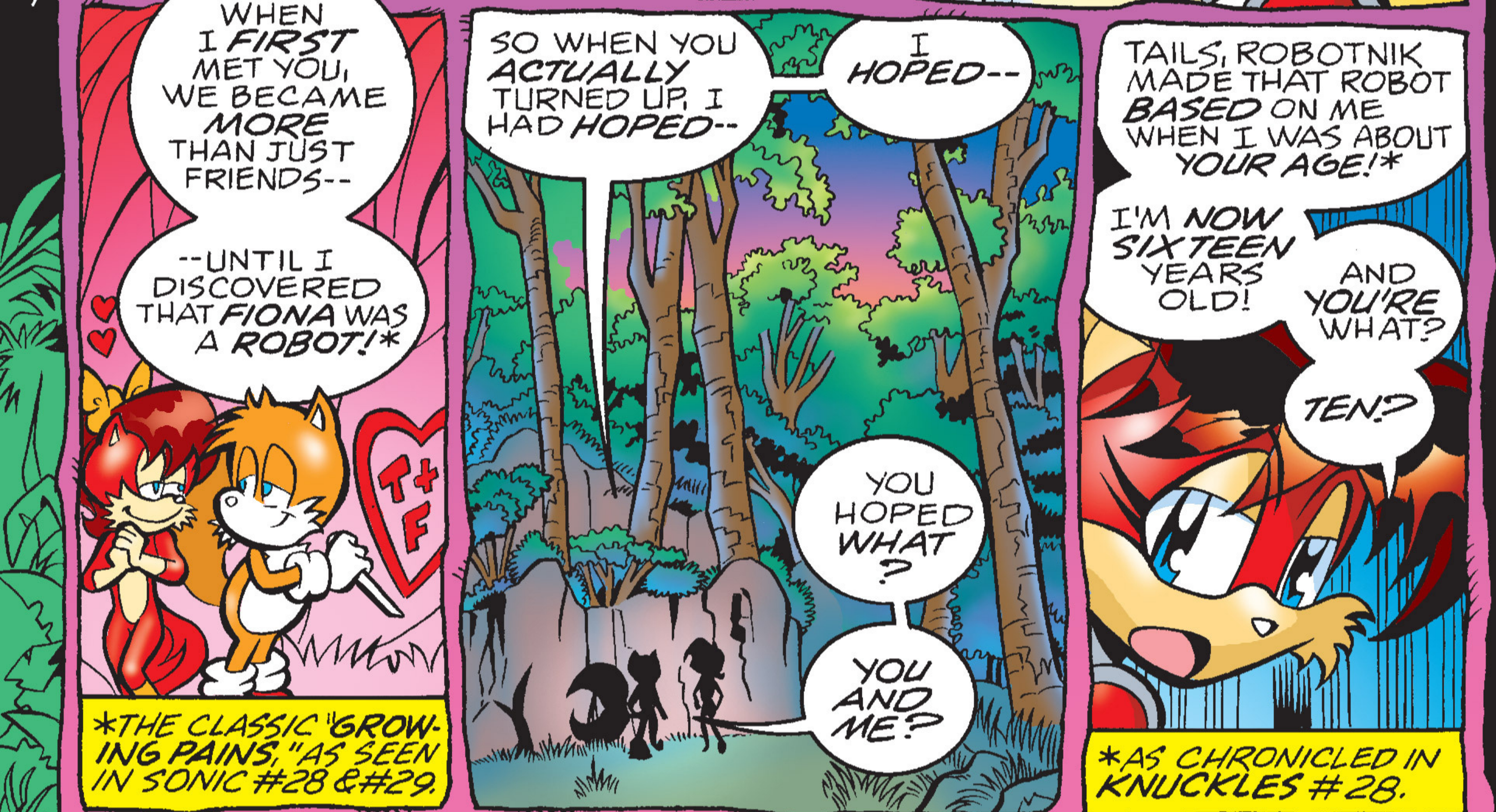
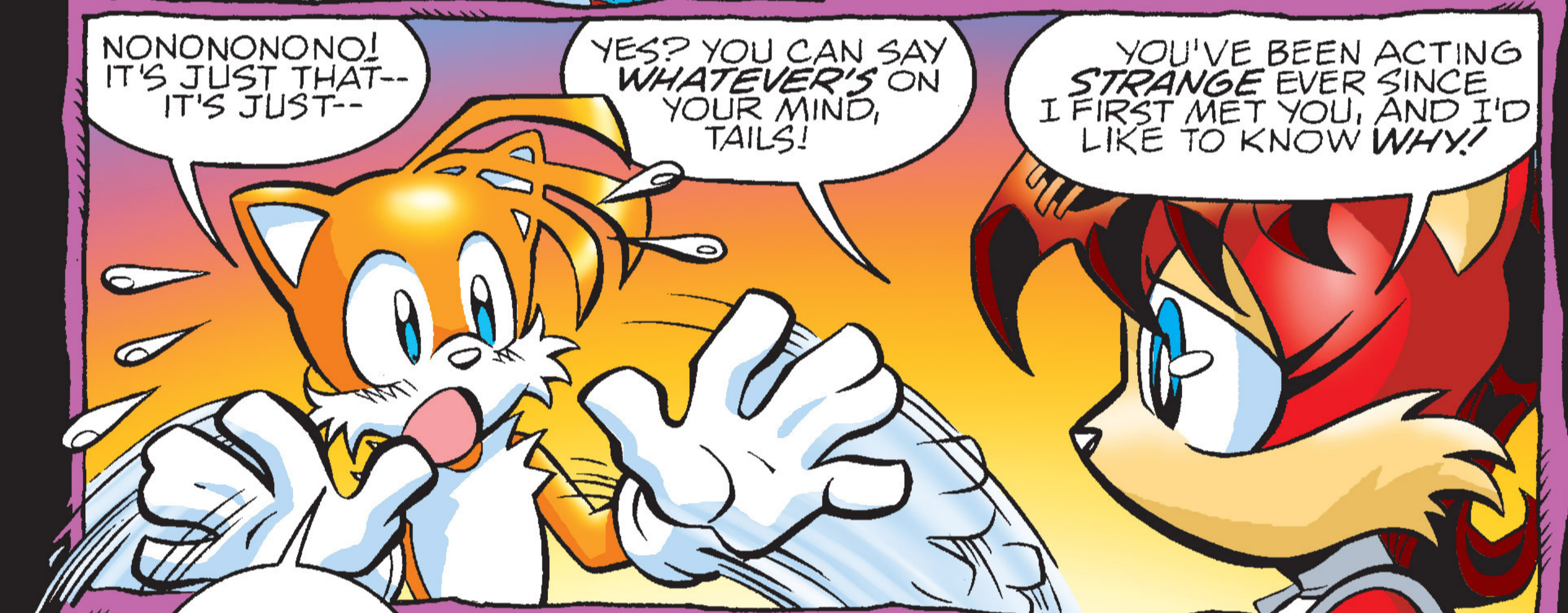
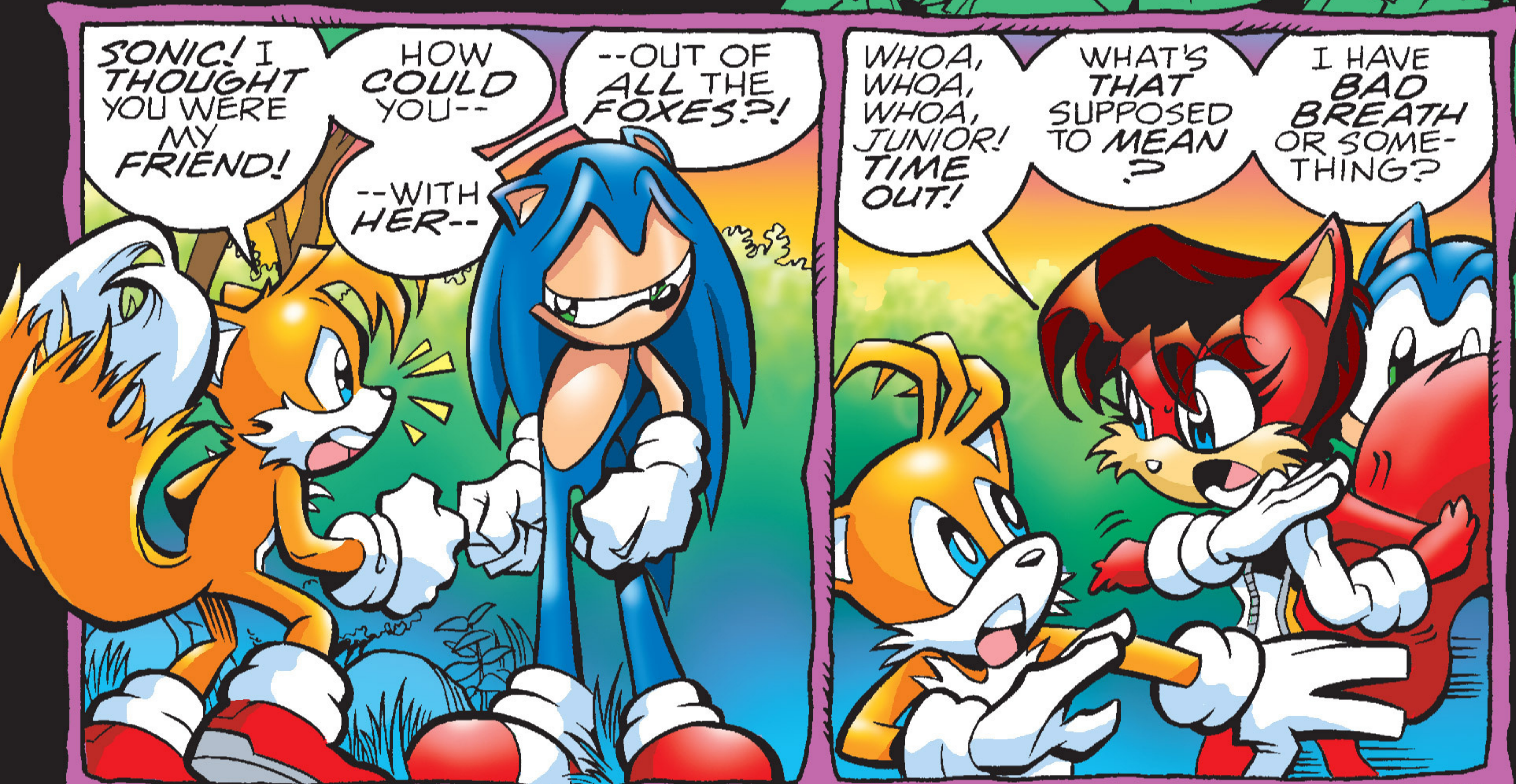
LINE OF SUCCESSION Part One

AWWP!!!

NOT
AGAIN
!!!*

FIONA!

*TAILS IS RE
FERRING TO
A SIMILAR
AWK-
WARD MOMENT AS WITNESSED
RECENTLY IN SONIC # 150



ELEVEN!
BUT YOU
COULD--

SOME-
DAY?!

MAYBE--?

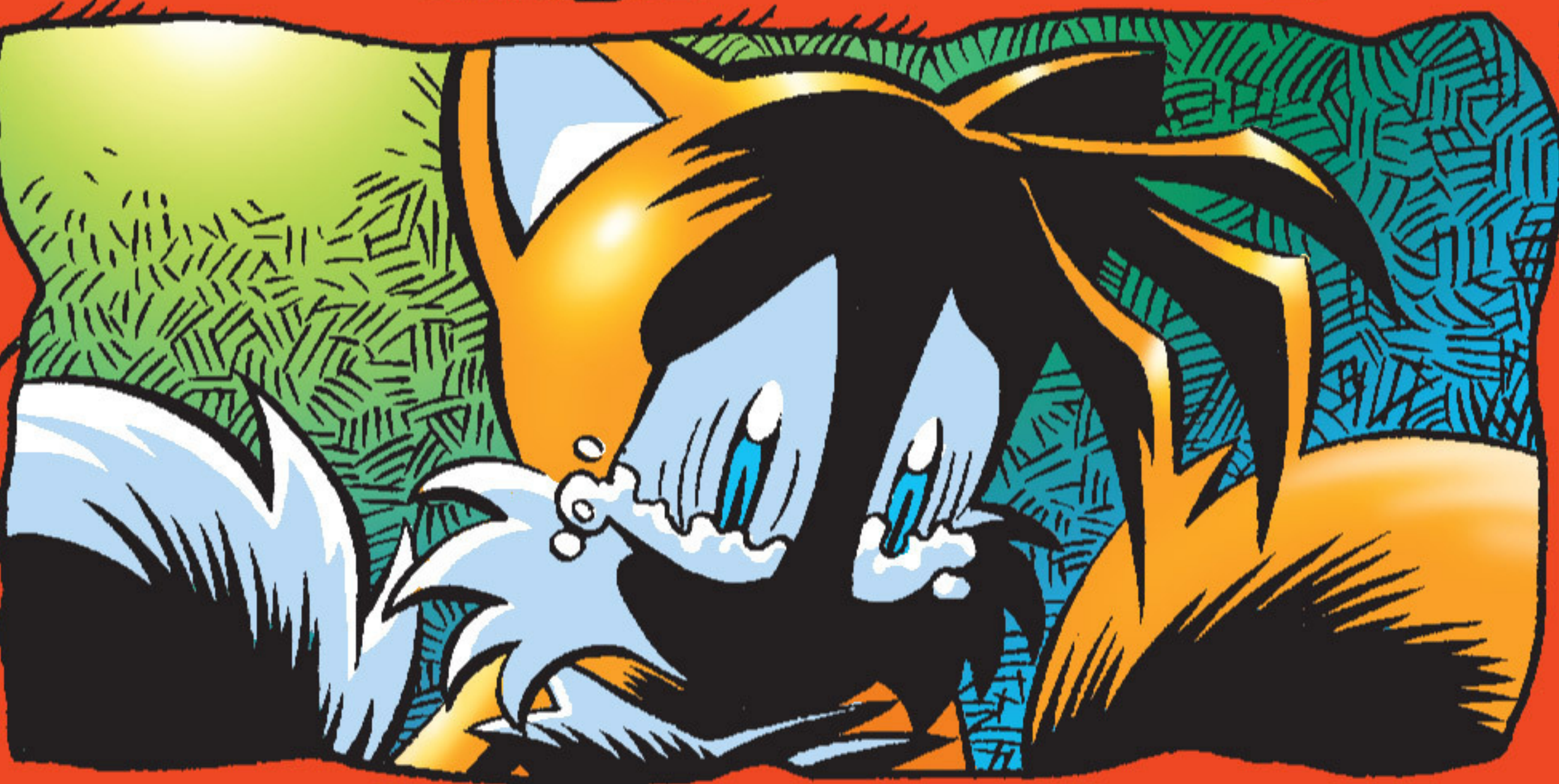
TAILS,
I THINK
YOU'RE
A SWEET
BOY--

--AND I
REALLY
LIKE
YOU!

BUT NOT IN A
ROMANTIC
WAY!

IT'S
JUST THAT
I PREFER
BOYFRIENDS
CLOSER TO MY
OWN AGE--

--LIKE
SONIC!

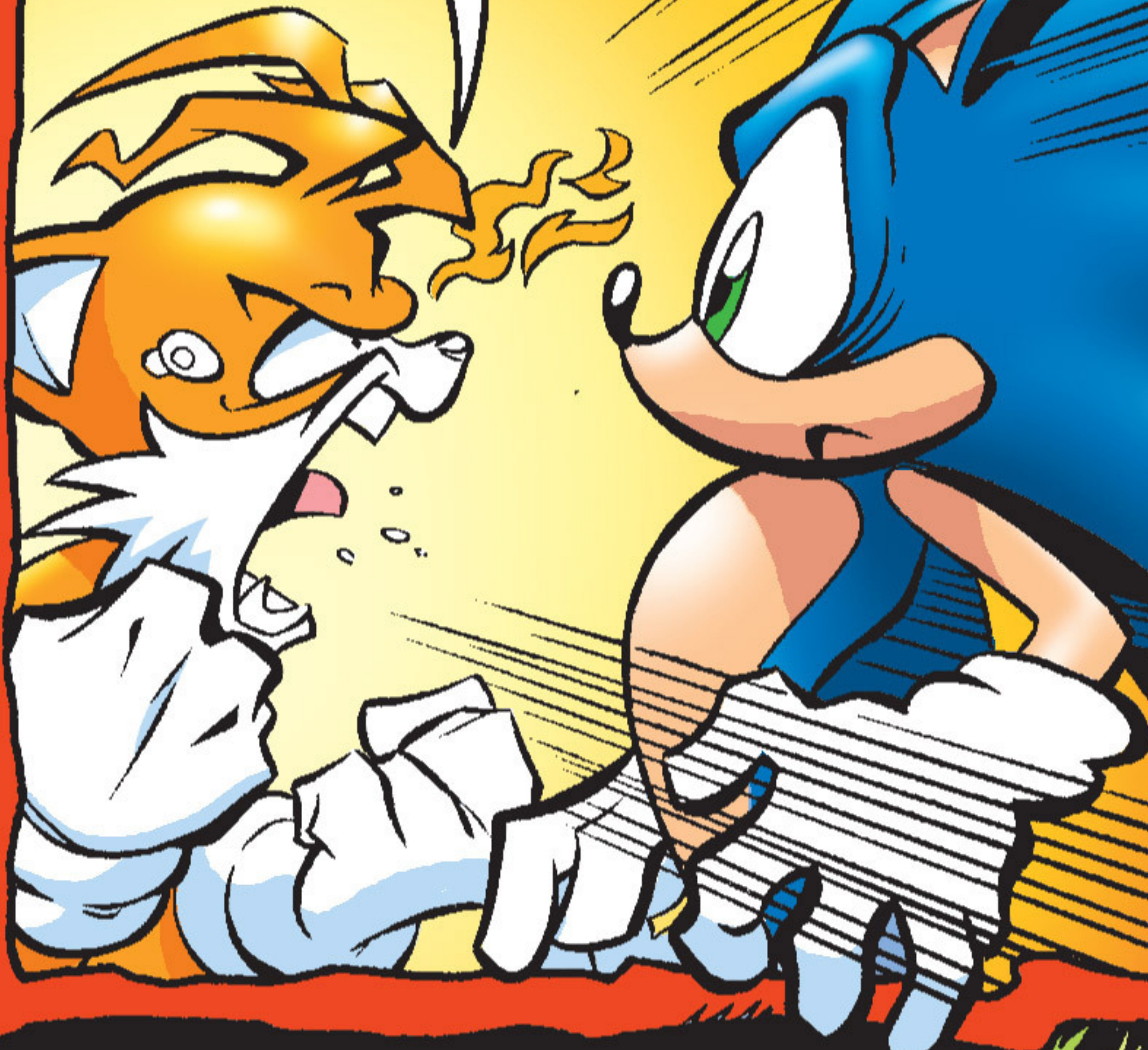


I HATE
YOU!!!

LET
HIM
GO,
SONIC!

TAILS!

THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN
SAY OR
DO--



"--THAT WILL MAKE HIM FEEL ANY BETTER!"

WE'RE COMING UP ON KNOTHOLE, QUEEN ALICIA!

IT'S ABOUT TIME, COMMANDER D'COOLETTE--

--AS I WANT THE KING TO BE EXAMINED BY THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

I'VE ALREADY LEFT WORD FOR ZEE DOCTAIR TO BE ON STANDBY, YOUR HIGH-NESS!

NOT LONG AFTER, SAFELY ENSCONCED IN THE PALACE...

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES OVER YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, MAX?

THE *SOURCE* ALONE KNOWS WHY I EVEN CONTINUE TO PUT UP WITH YOU, HORATIO!

MOST LIKELY DUE TO MY *SUNNY* DISPOSITION!

IN THE MEANTIME, JUST *STAY* IN BED AND GET PLENTY OF *REST*!

WHAT *ELSE* IS THERE TO DO?

LET'S HEAR YOU *SAY* THAT WHEN ALICIA IS AROUND!

COMMANDER, MAKE SURE THE KING TAKES *ONE* OF *THESE* WITH EACH MEAL!

YES, DOCTOR!

DOES LIFE GET ANY *EASIER* ZHAN ZIS?

A FEW HOURS LATER...

IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY, ANTOINE?

THIS IS KNOTHOLE, NOT MOBOTROPOLIS OR SOME OTHER UNFRIENDLY TERRITORY.

ROBOTNIK'S TREACHERY KNOWS NO BOUNDS, MON PRINCESS.

AND I HAVE PLEDGED MY VERY LIFE IN ZEE DEFENSE--

--OF LA FAMILY ROYAL!

YOUR PARENTS AWAIT!

SALLY! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, DEAR?

I HAVE TO WONDER, WITH ANTOINE OUTSIDE THIS DOOR!

THE COMMANDER IS JUST DOING HIS JOB!

COME HERE, MY DAUGHTER!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AND MOTHER, DADDY!

I'VE MISSED YOU BOTH SO MUCH!

AS WE HAVE YOU, DEAR.

PLEASE, ALICIA, WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!

YOU, MY DAUGHTER, ARE ABOUT TO BE ELEVATED TO QUEEN OF OUR KINGDOM--

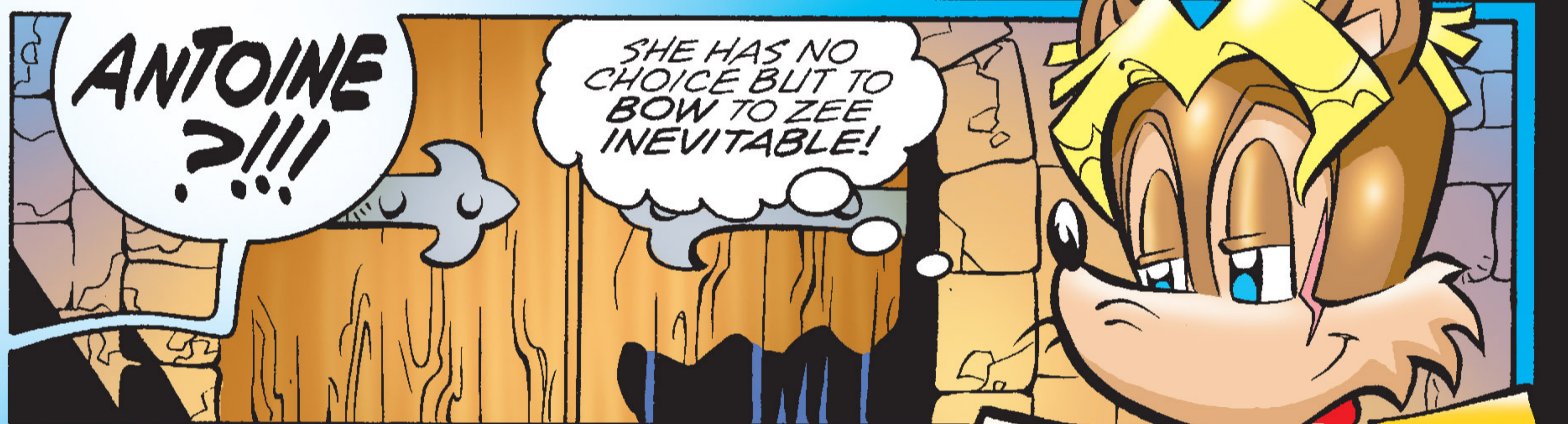
--WHICH REQUIRES YOU TO MARRY FOR THERE TO BE A KING!

MARRY?! WHO?!!!

BECAUSE OF MY HEALTH, SALLY, I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO STEP DOWN!

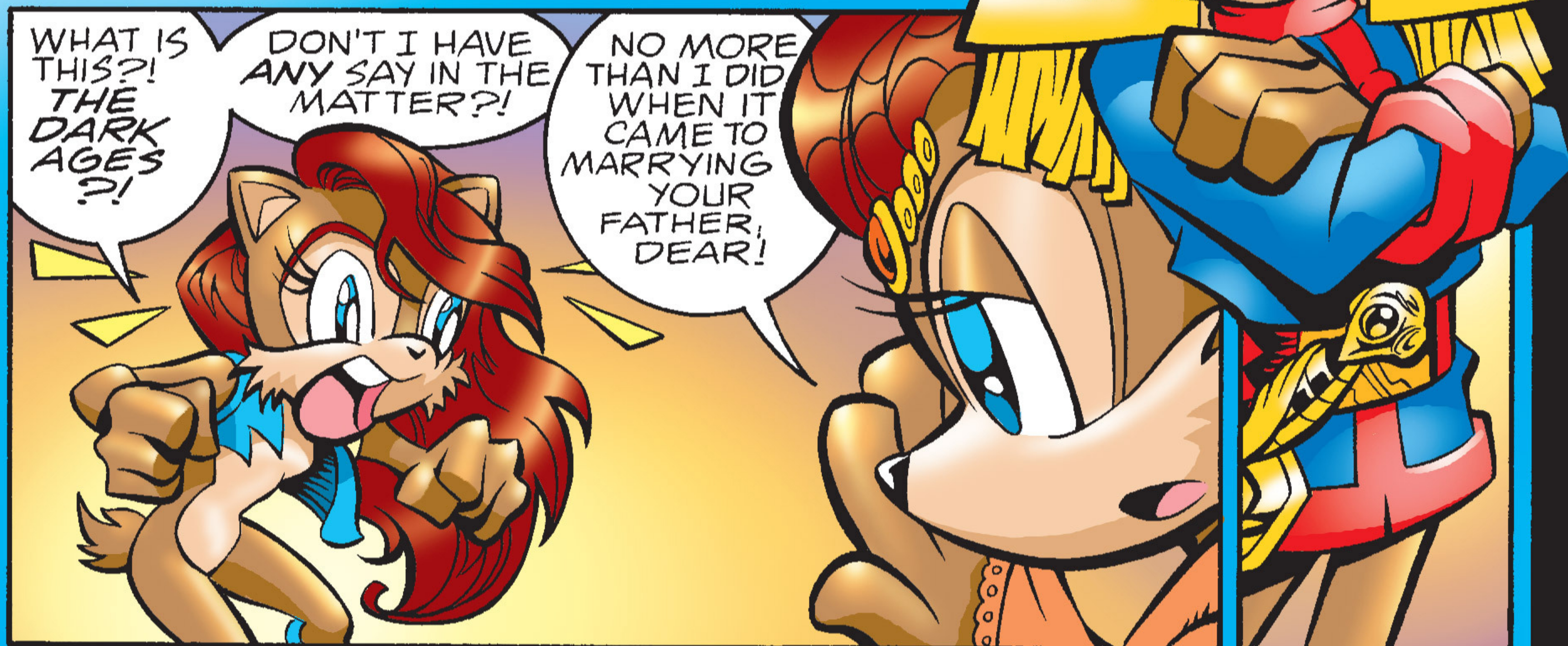
STEP DOWN?

THE CITIZENS WILL NEED A NEW KING AND QUEEN!



ANTOINE
?!!!

SHE HAS NO
CHOICE BUT TO
BOW TO ZEE
INEVITABLE!



WHAT IS
THIS?!
THE
DARK
AGES
?!

DON'T I HAVE
ANY SAY IN THE
MATTER?!

NO MORE
THAN I DID
WHEN IT
CAME TO
MARRYING
YOUR
FATHER,
DEAR!



OUR MARRIAGE WAS
ARRANGED *BEFORE*
WE *EVEN* KNEW ONE
ANOTHER, SALLY.

IT MAY *NOT* HAVE
BEEN *LOVE* AT
FIRST SIGHT--

--BUT IT'S
BEEN *LOVE*
EVER *SINCE*!



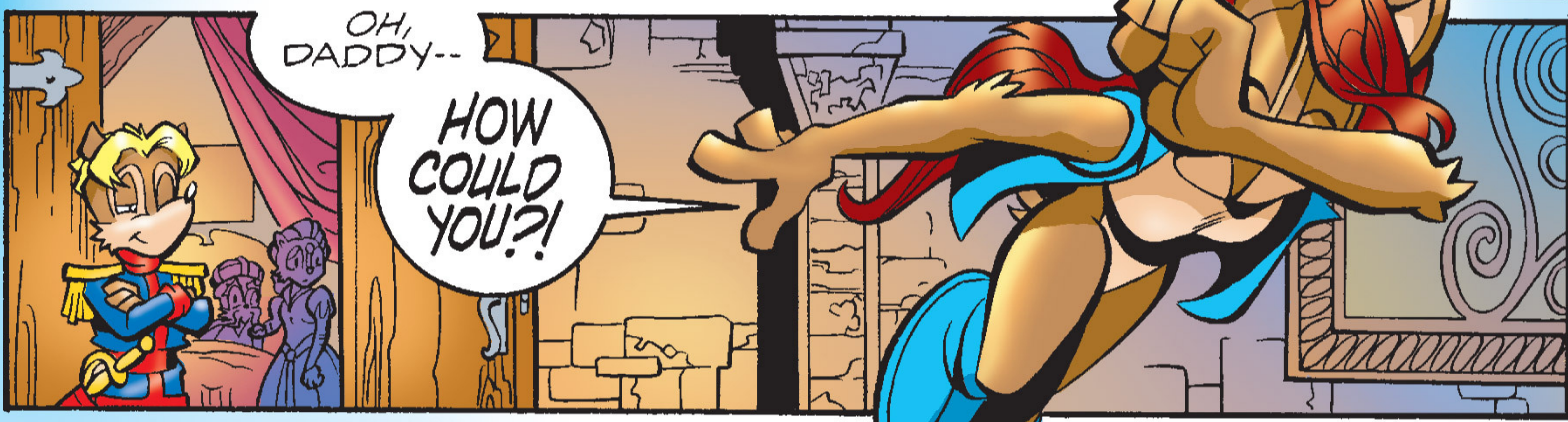
AND THAT
MAKES IT
RIGHT FOR
ME TO GO
THROUGH
WITH THIS--

--THIS
FARCE
?!

NEED I
RE MIND
YOU WHAT
HAPPENED
WHEN YOU
LET YOUR
HEART BE
YOUR
JUDGE?



I'M JUST GRATE-
FUL THAT *DISASTER*
ENDED BEFORE
YOU MARRIED
THAT *COMMONER*!



OH,
DADDY--

HOW
COULD
YOU?!

LATER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF KNOTHOLE...

YOU'RE A NATURAL WITH THAT GUITAR, SON!

HOW ABOUT PLAYING STRAWBERRY VALLEY FOR ME?

AWW, MOM!

THAT SONG IS SOOO LAME--

DINGDONG

WE'LL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER AFTER I SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR!

SAVED BY THE BELL!

POOR MOM! HER FAVES ARE JUST SO YESTERDAY!

BUNNIE! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY CRIB, BABE?

HEY! WHY THE SOUR PUSS?

--EVEN THE SCHOOL BAND WON'T PLAY IT!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS!

I WAS VISITING WITH SALLY AND--

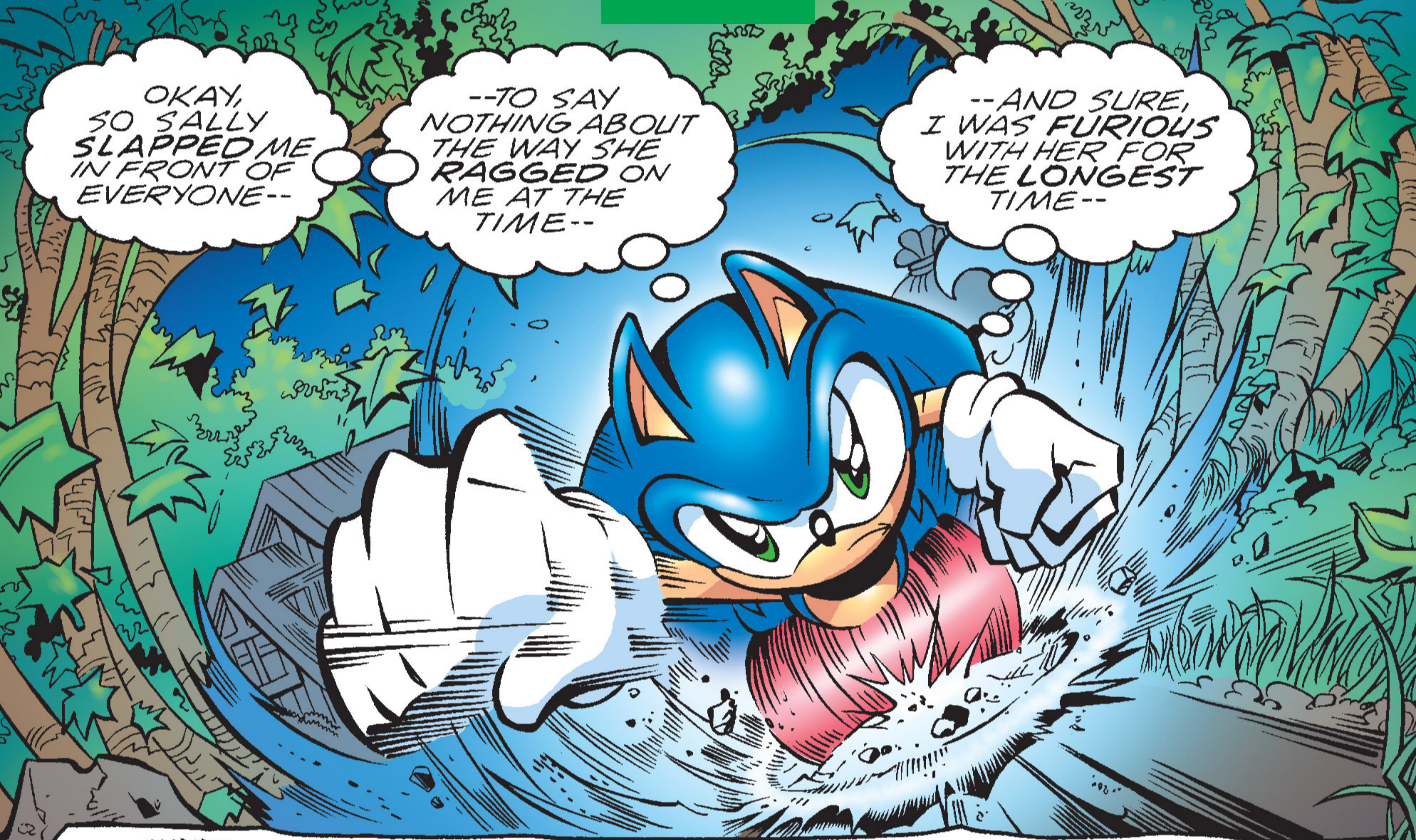
THIS IS SO HARD!!!

SALLY'S GETTING MARRIED TO ANTOINE THIS WEEK-END!!!

THIS IS A BAD JOKE, RIGHT?

RIGHT?

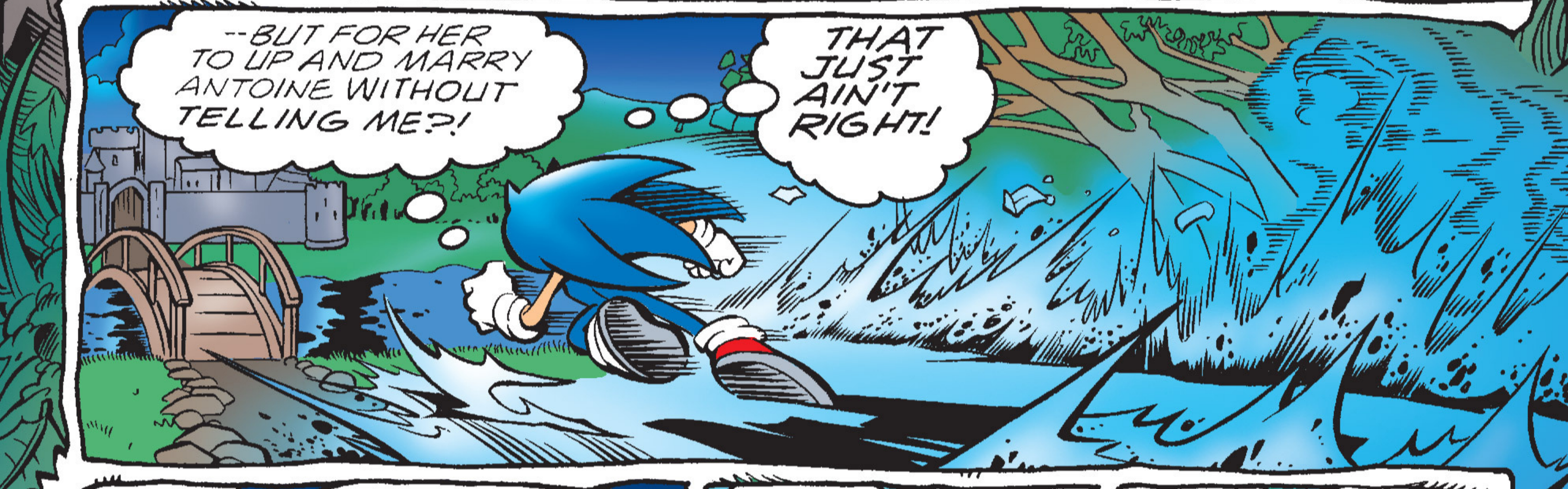
WHATEVER IT IS, JUST SAY IT, WILLYA?



OKAY,
SO SALLY
SLAPPED ME
IN FRONT OF
EVERYONE--

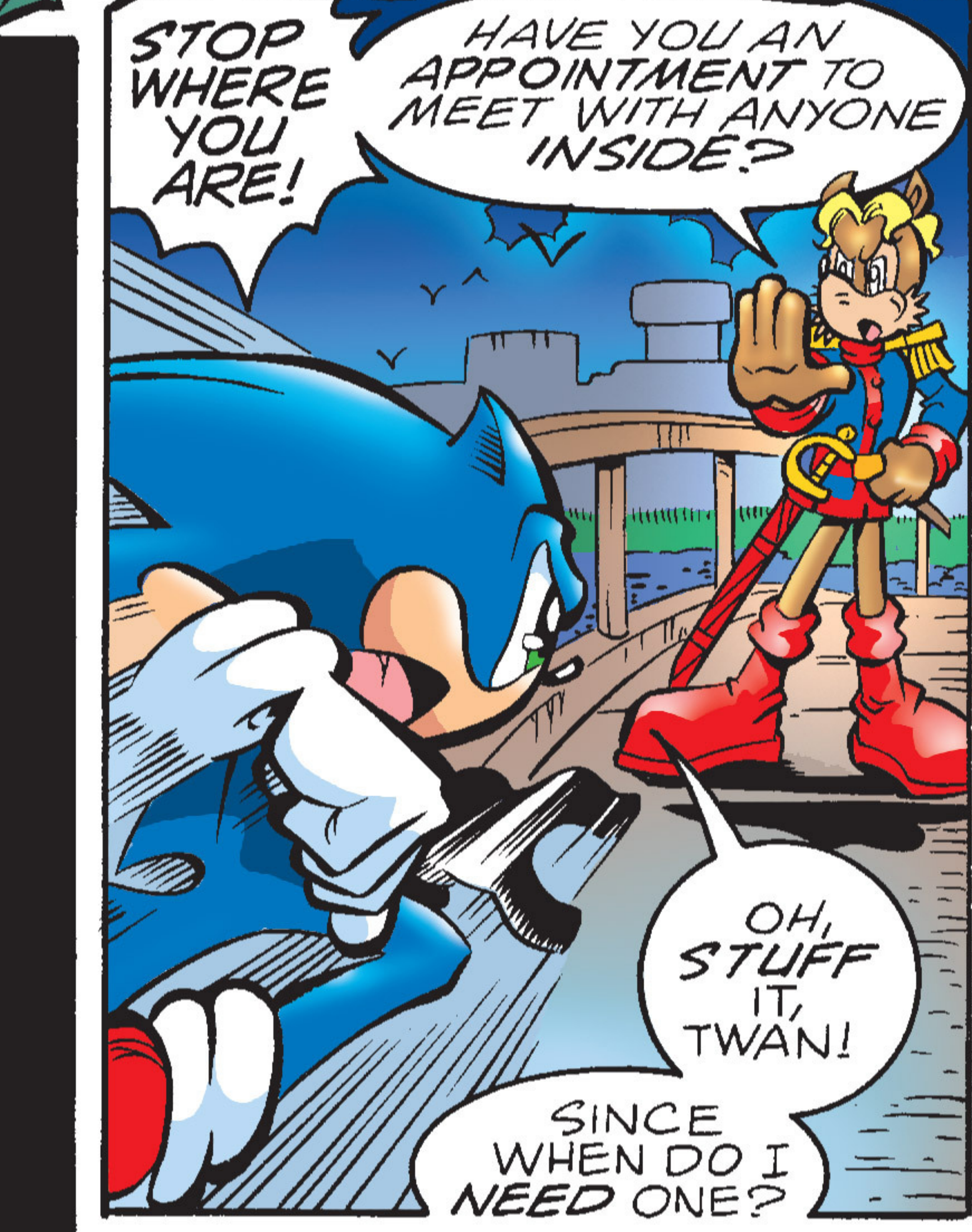
--TO SAY
NOTHING ABOUT
THE WAY SHE
RAGGED ON
ME AT THE
TIME--

--AND SURE,
I WAS FURIOUS
WITH HER FOR
THE LONGEST
TIME--



--BUT FOR HER
TO UP AND MARRY
ANTOINE WITHOUT
TELLING ME?!

THAT
JUST
AIN'T
RIGHT!



STOP
WHERE
YOU
ARE!

HAVE YOU AN
APPOINTMENT TO
MEET WITH ANYONE
INSIDE?

OH,
STUFF
IT,
TWAN!

SINCE
WHEN DO I
NEED ONE?

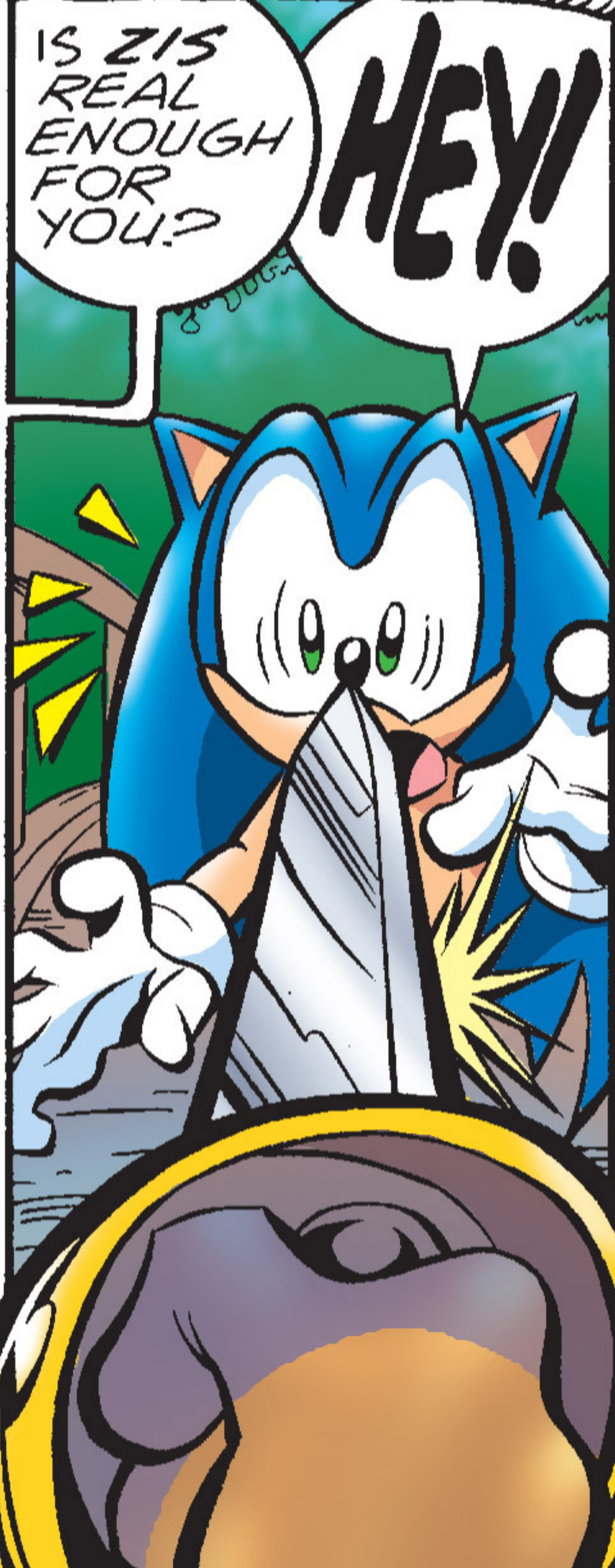


I'M
SERIOUS,
MON
AMI!

YOU TAKE
ONE MORE
STEP WITH-
OUT PER-
MISSION,
AND IT'LL
BE YOUR
LAST!

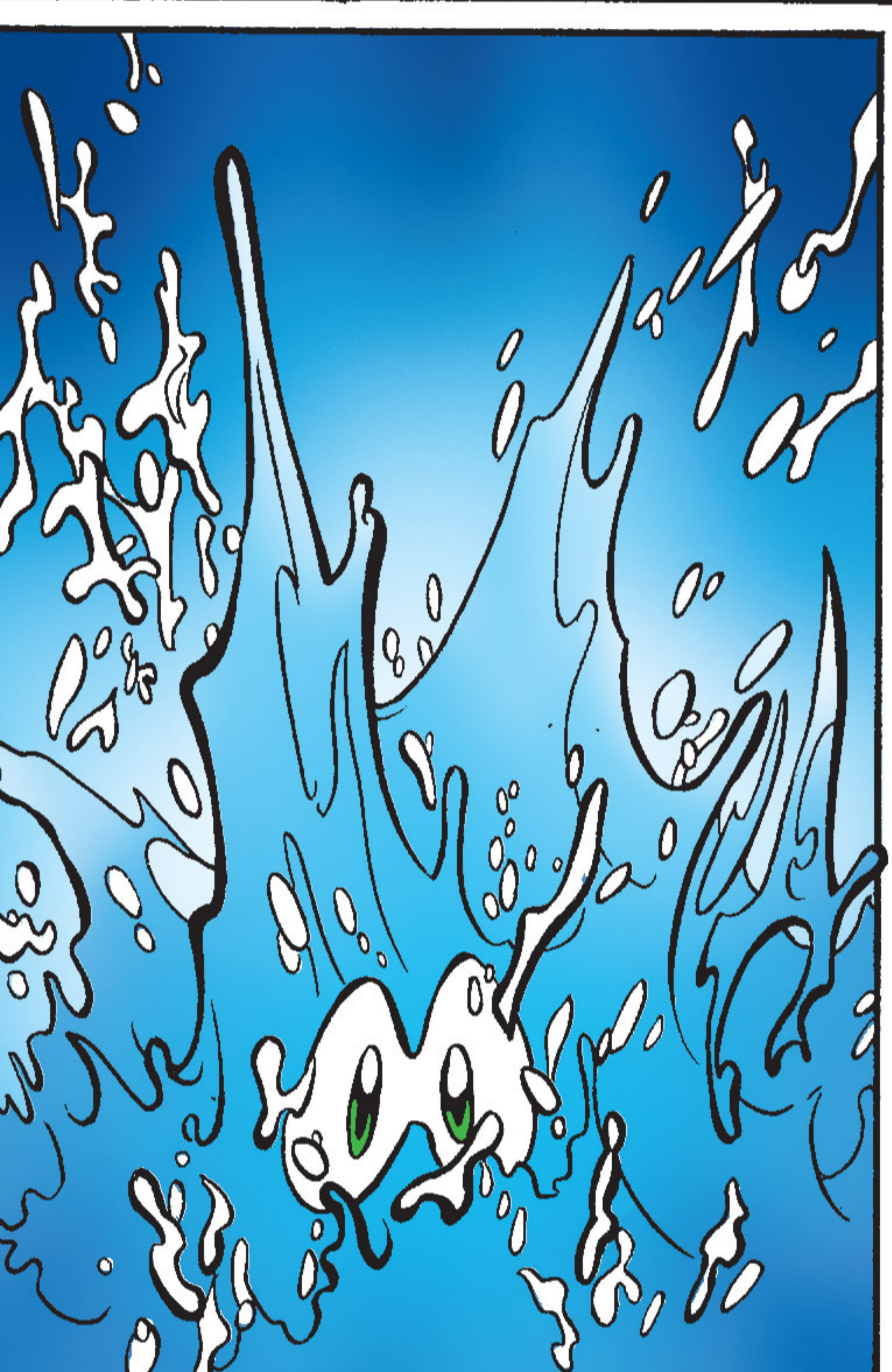
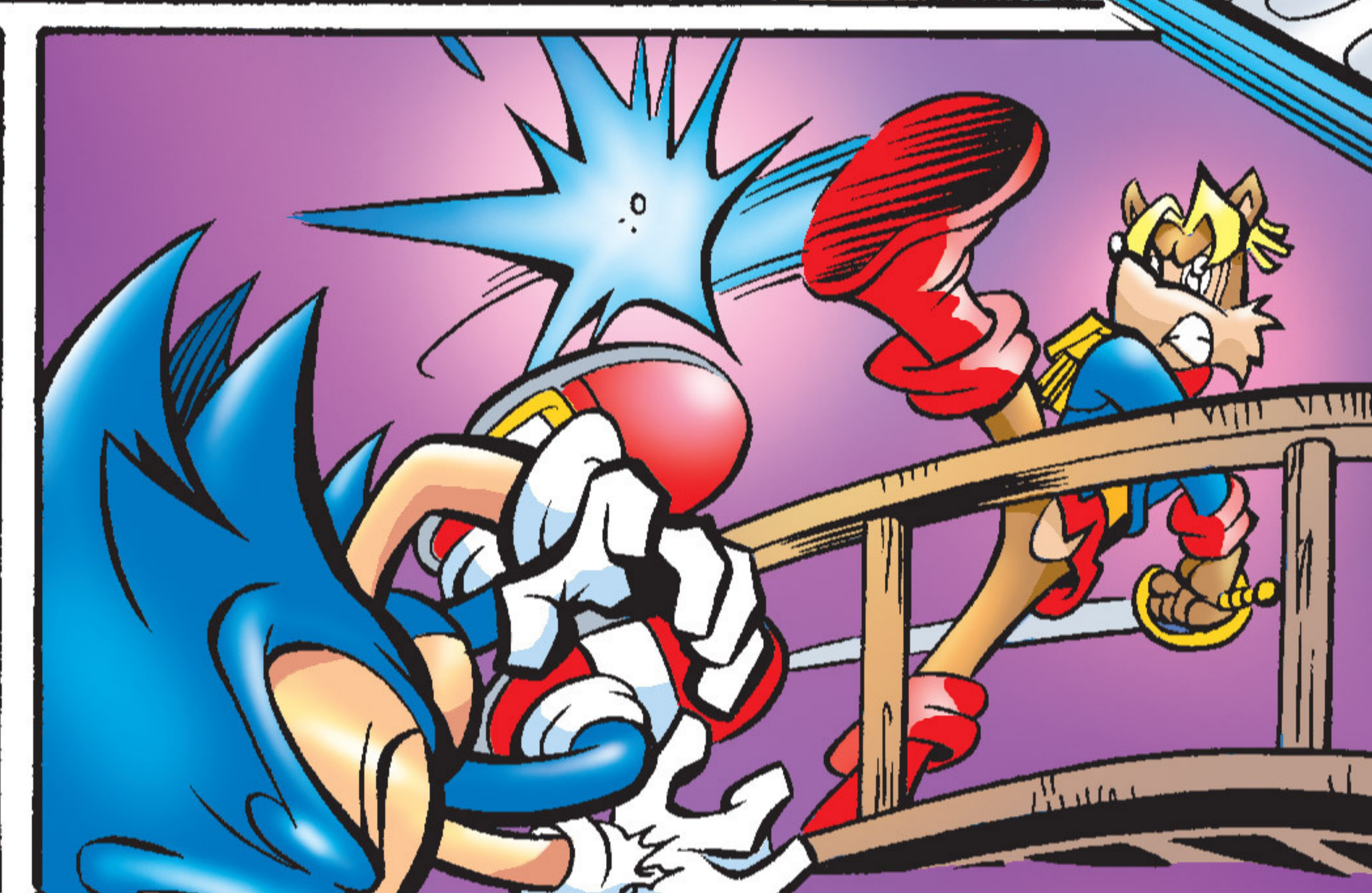
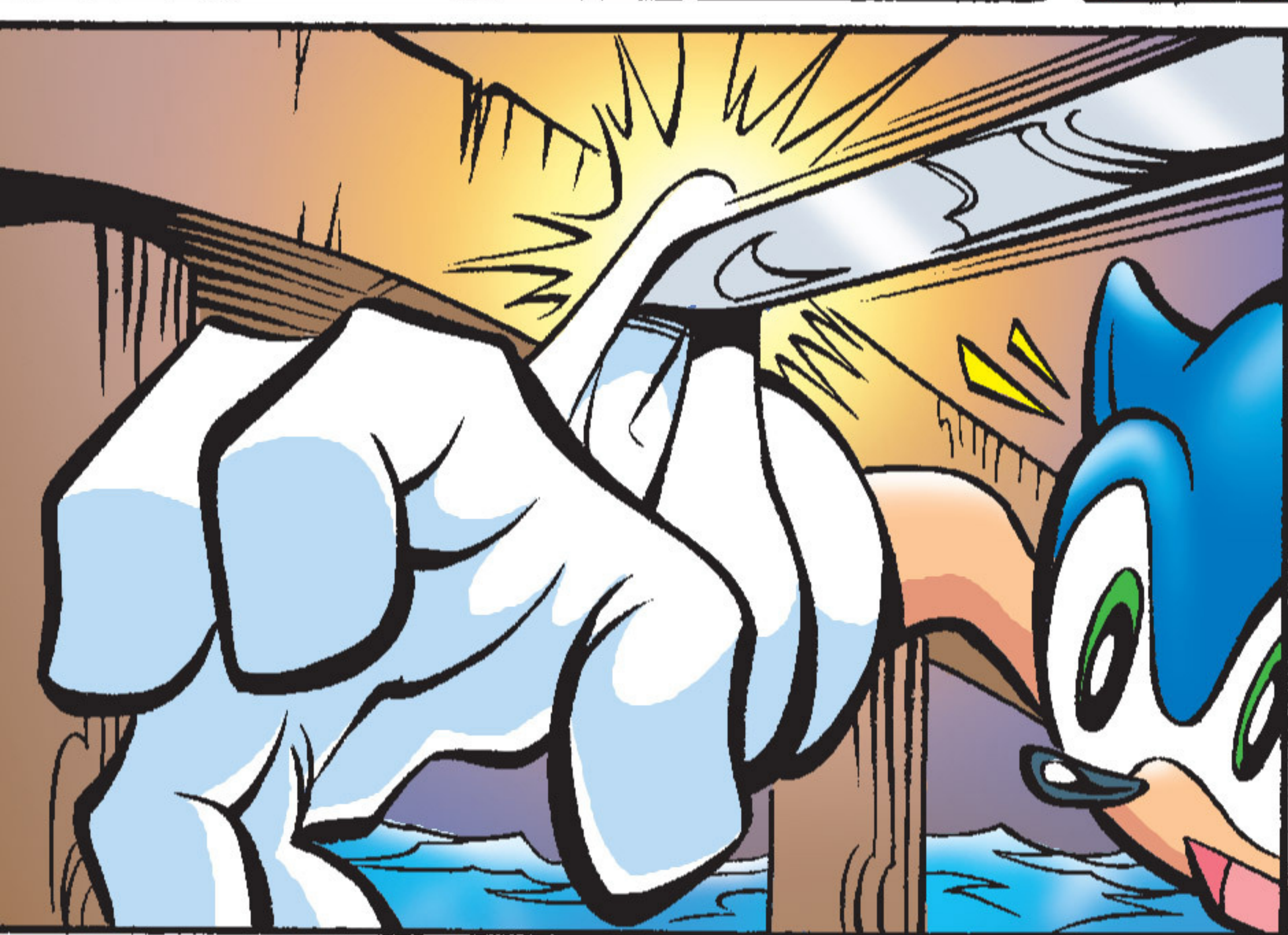
SAYS
WHO?
YOU?!!!

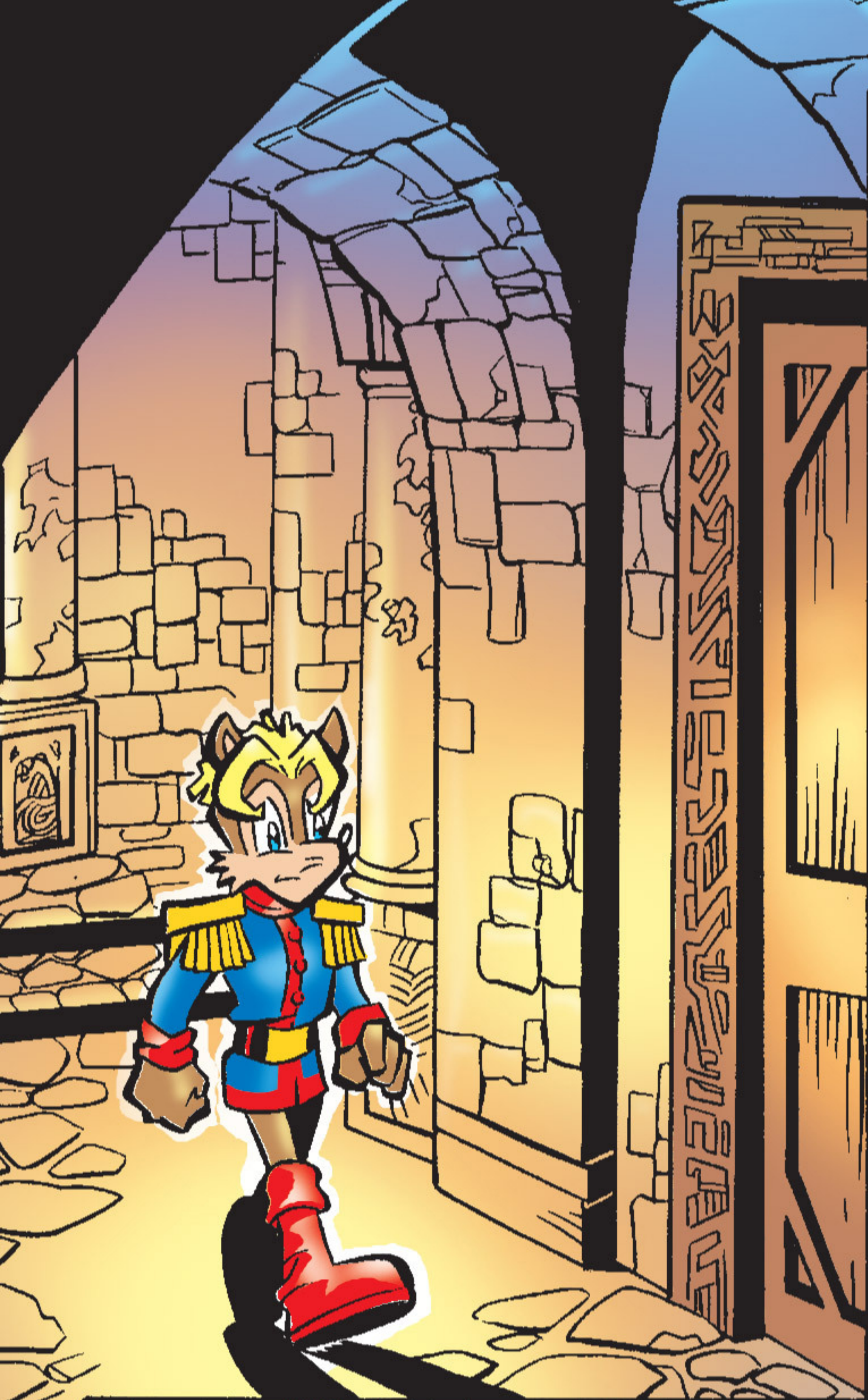
GET
REAL!!!



IS ZIS
REAL
ENOUGH
FOR
YOU?

HEY!





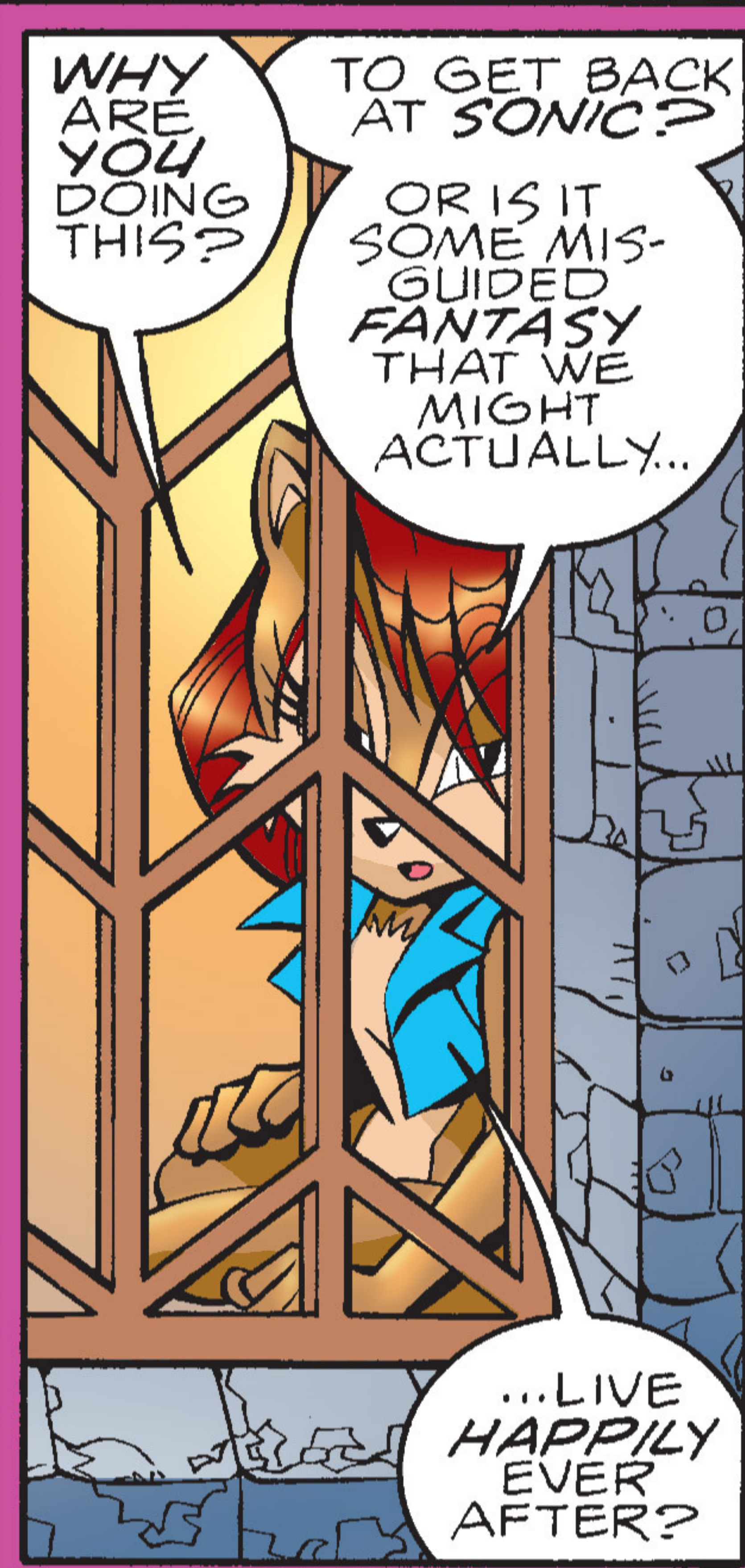
MON PRINCESS,
IT IS I...ANTOINE.

MAY I
COME
IN?

Knock
Knock

I DON'T RECALL
GIVING YOU
PERMISSION!

I DON'T
RECALL YOU
RESPONDING,
EITHER.



WHY
ARE
YOU
DOING
THIS?

TO GET BACK
AT SONIC?

OR IS IT
SOME MIS-
GUIDED
FANTASY
THAT WE
MIGHT
ACTUALLY...

...LIVE
HAPPILY
EVER
AFTER?



ZIS
MAY
COME
AS A
SHOCK
TO YOU,
MON
CHERIE--

--BUT I
HAVE NO
WISH TO
MARRY
YOU ANY
MORE
THAN YOU
DO ME.

THEN
WHY?

SOMEBODY--
PLEASE--MAKE
SOME SENSE
OF ALL THIS!



FOR SOME OF US,
THE WORDS "DUTY,"
"HONOR," AND
"OBLIGATION TO
ONE'S KING" ARE
REASON ENOUGH!

SURELY YOU, OF
ALL PEOPLE, CAN
UNDERSTAND
ZAT!



IT'S JUST
THAT I WAS
HOPING
FOR THE
FAIRY
TALE!

BUT COME
THE FOLLOWING
MORNING,
MATTERS TAKE
A TURN FOR
THE WORSE...

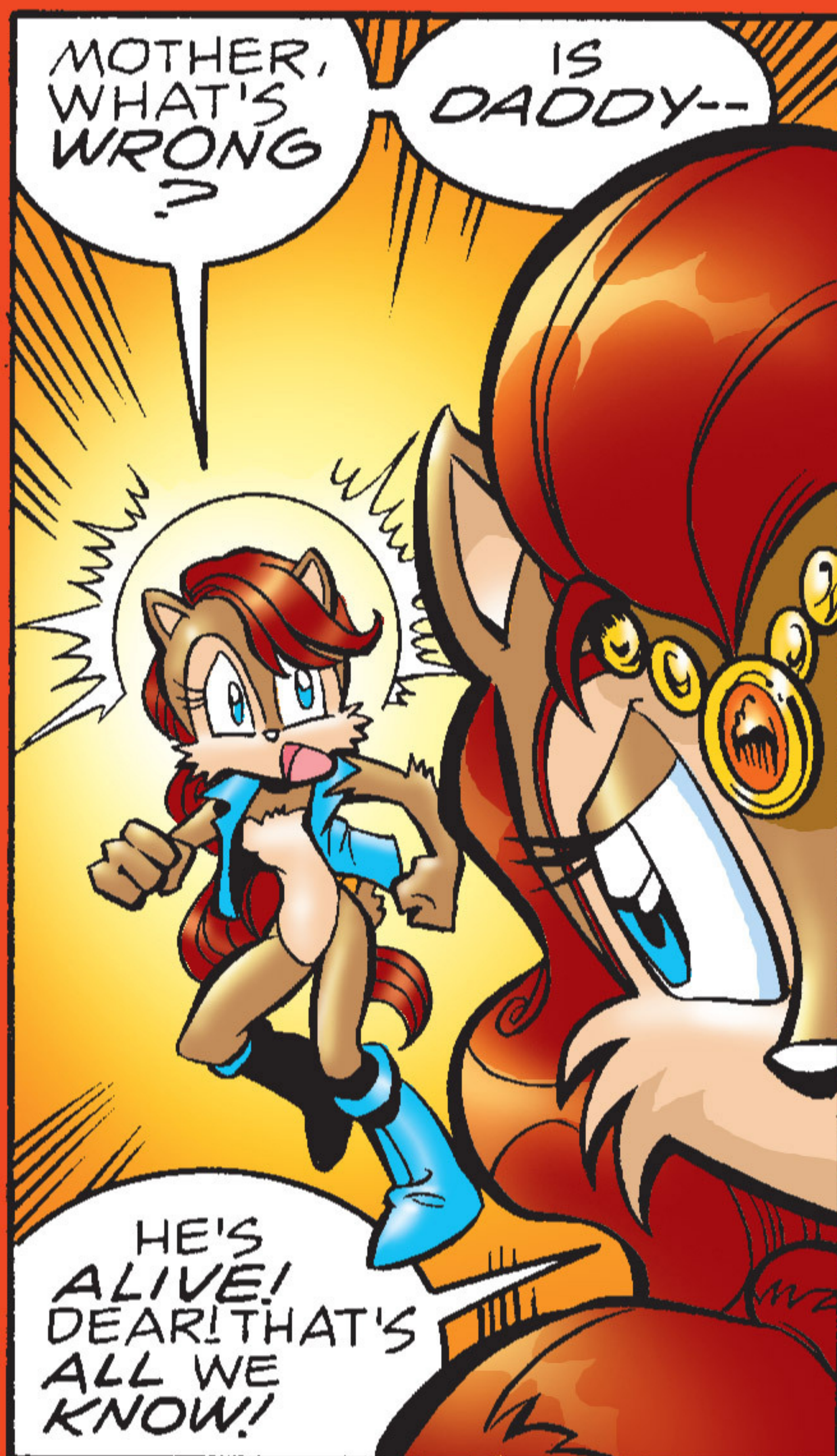
COMMANDER!
HAVE YOU BEEN
MAKING SURE THE
KING'S BEEN
TAKING HIS
MEDICA-
TION?

I GAVE HIM
THE REQUIRED
DOSAGE WITH
DINNER, AND
WAS ABOUT
TO WHEN
BREAKFAST
WAS SERVED!



MOTHER,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

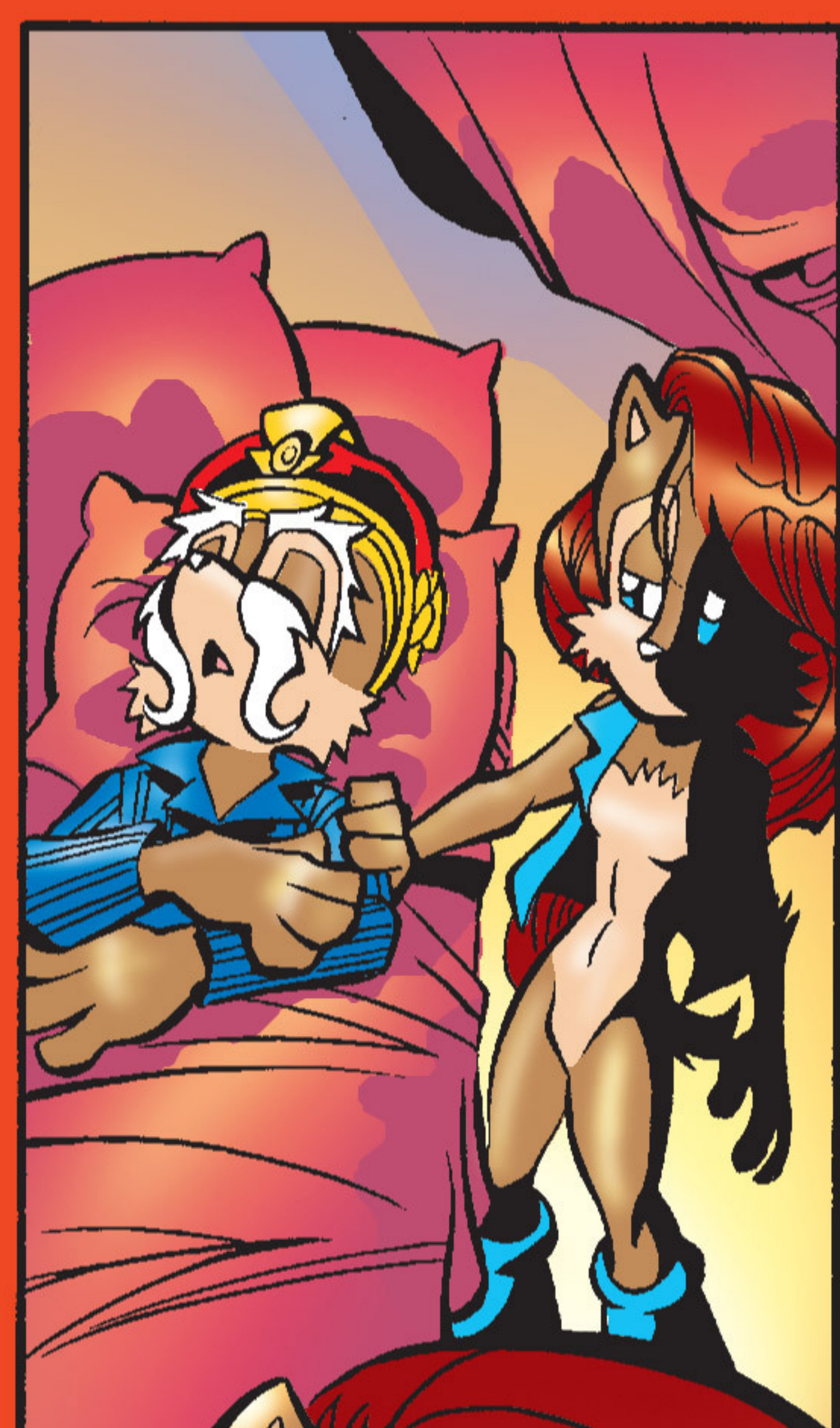
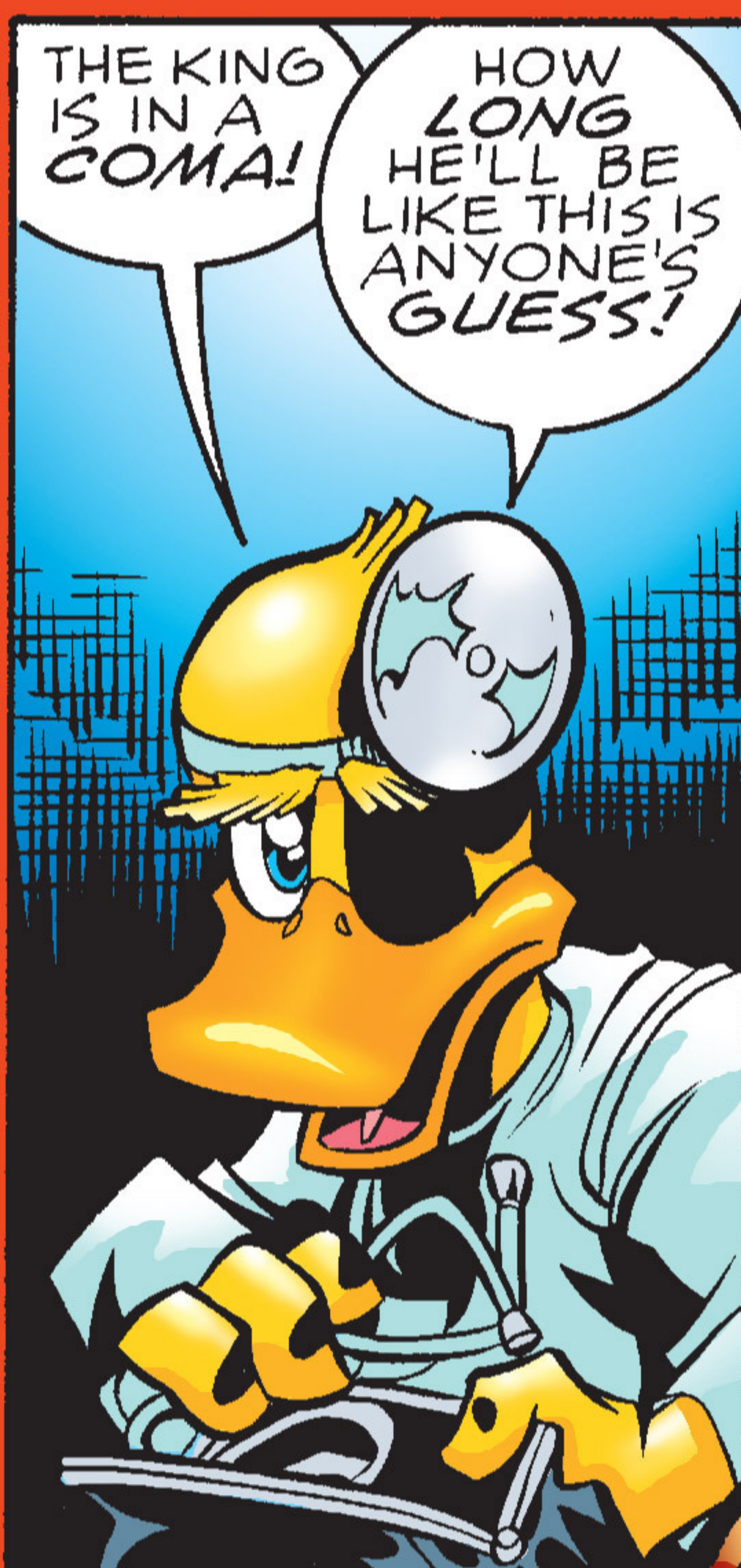
IS
DADDY--



HE'S
ALIVE!
DEAR! THAT'S
ALL WE
KNOW!

THE KING
IS IN A
COMA!

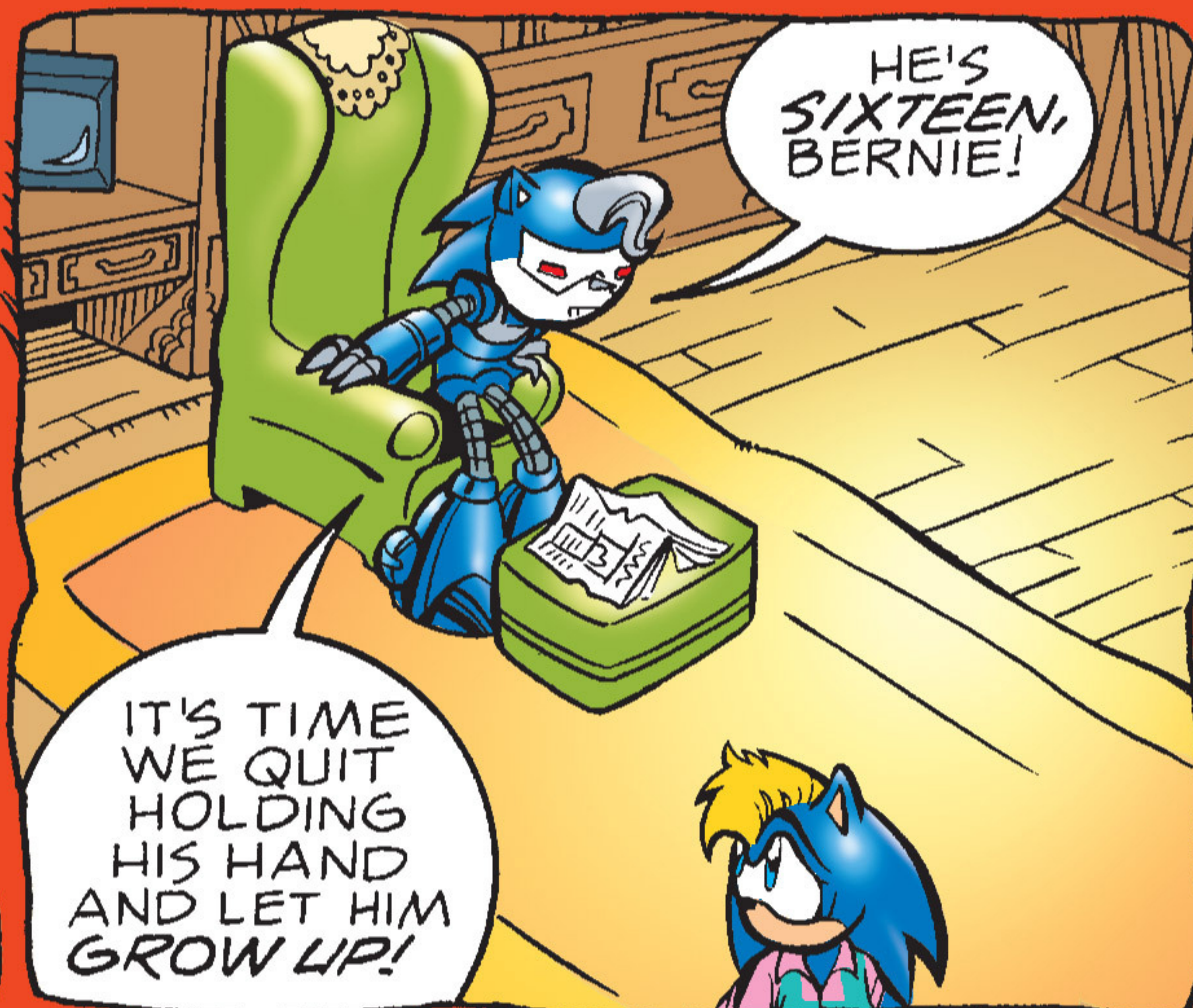
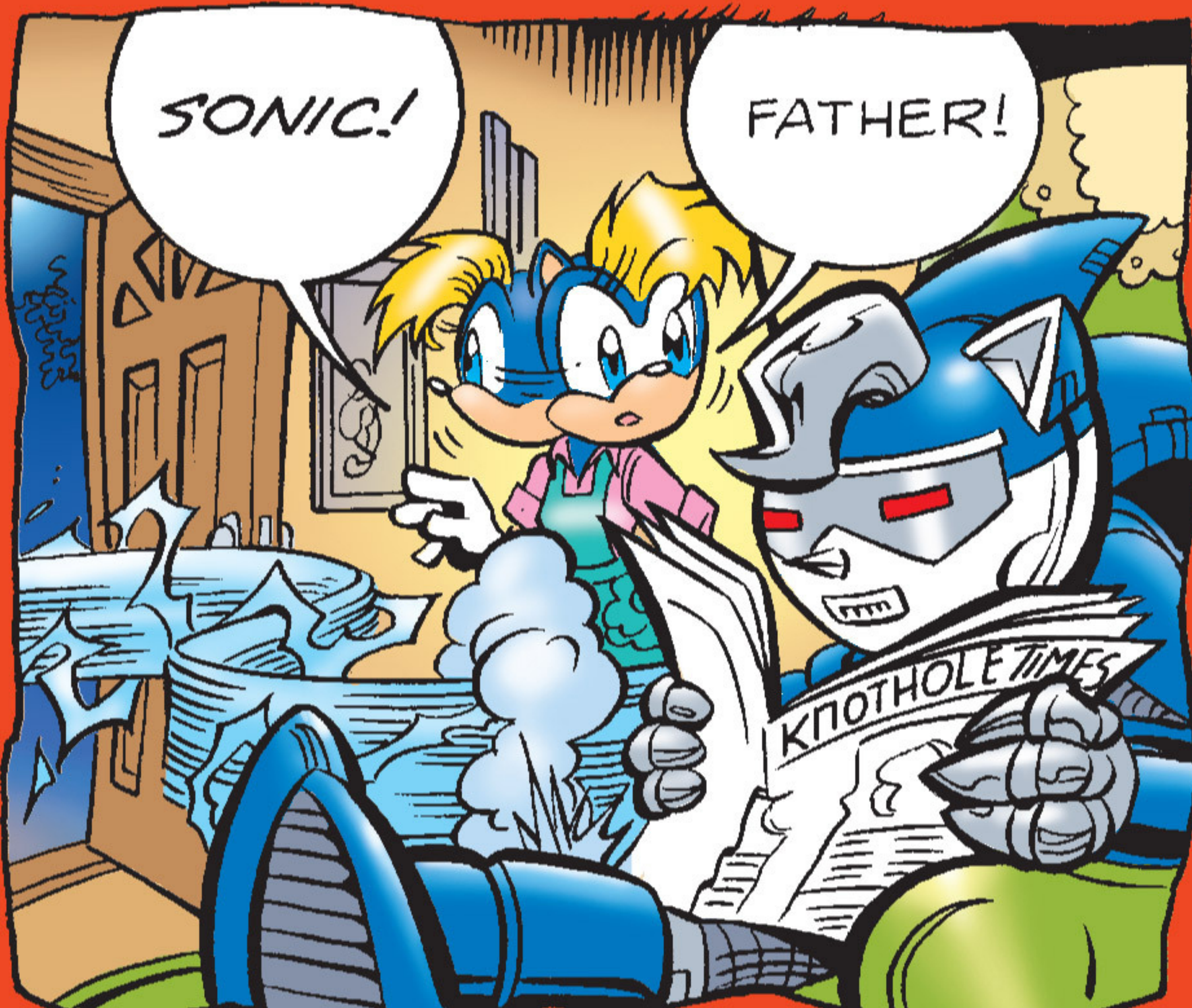
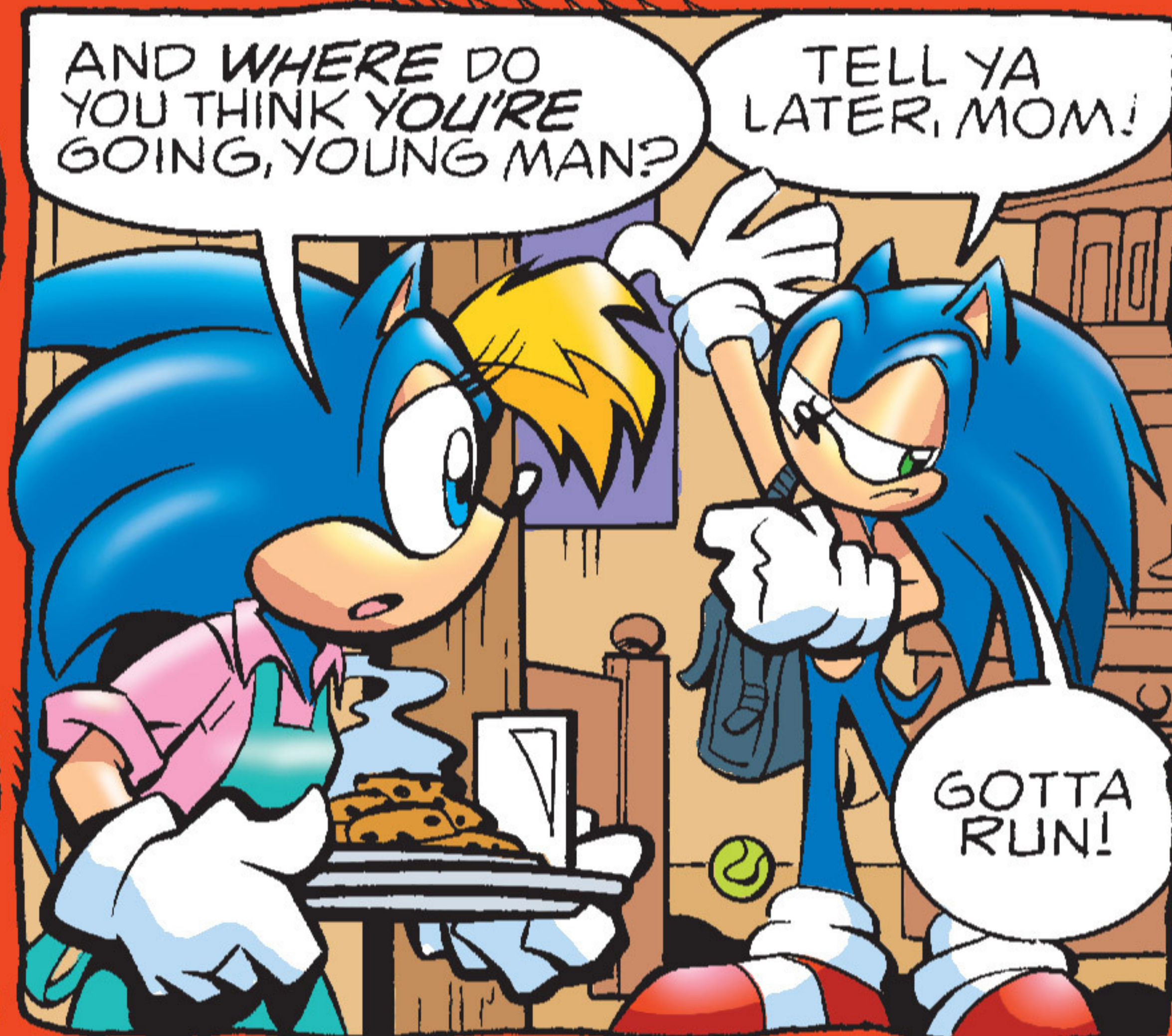
HOW
LONG
HE'LL BE
LIKE THIS IS
ANYONE'S
GUESS!



COMMANDER
D'COOLETTE,
PLEASE SEND
FOR MY
BRIDES-
MAIDS!

I'VE A
WEDDING TO
PREPARE!

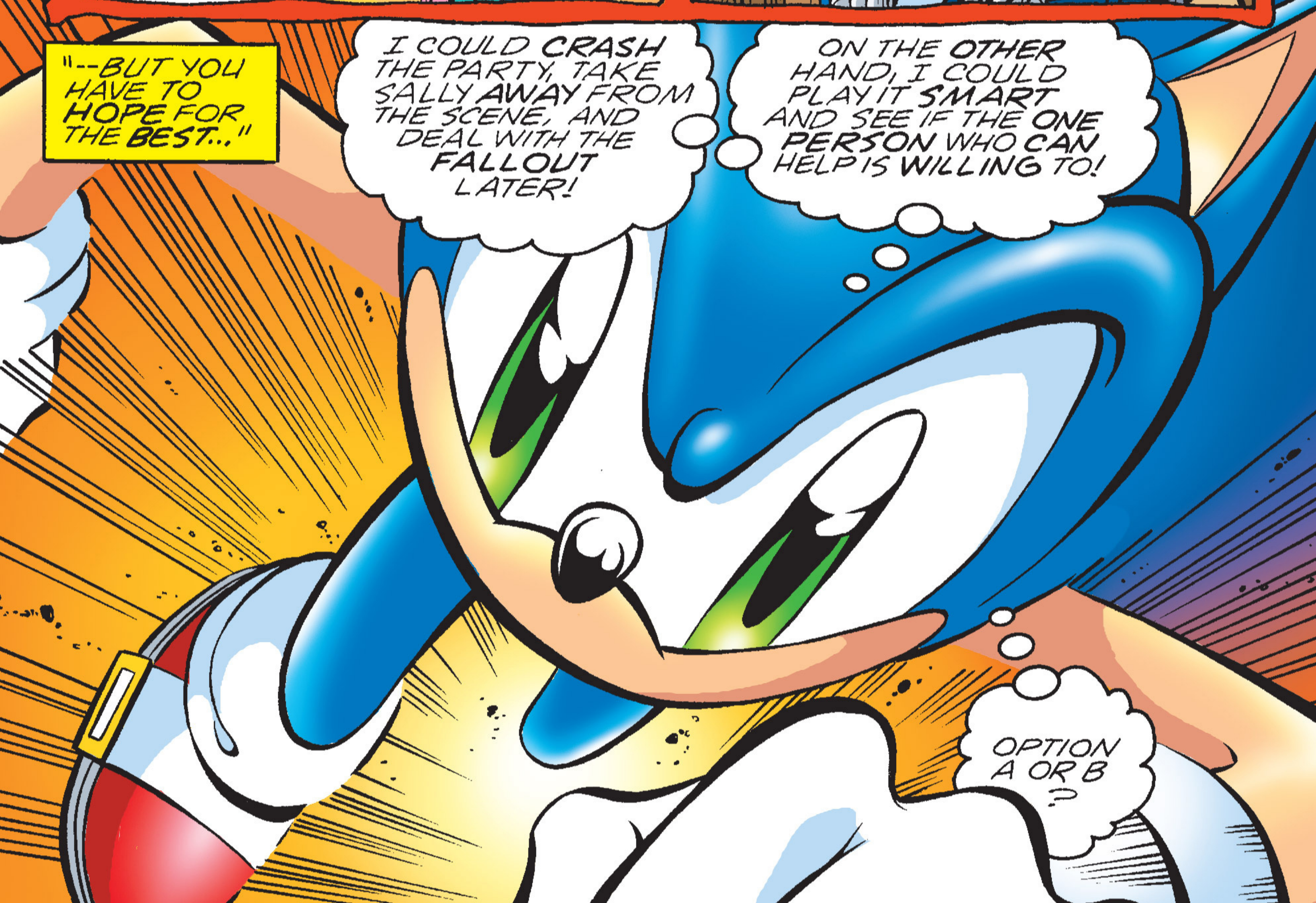




"--BUT YOU HAVE TO HOPE FOR THE BEST..."

I COULD CRASH THE PARTY, TAKE SALLY AWAY FROM THE SCENE, AND DEAL WITH THE FALLOUT LATER!

ON THE OTHER HAND, I COULD PLAY IT SMART AND SEE IF THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN HELP IS WILLING TO!



AND SO
IT COMES
TO PASS...

WHETHER
IT'S PRE-
ORDAINED
OR THE
LUCK OF
THE
DRAW--

--FOR
BETTER
OR
WORSE...

--THIS
IS MY
DESTINY!

IT'S
NOT LIKE
I'D BE
MARRYING
AN OGRE!

ANTOINE
HAS A LOT OF
POSITIVE
ASPECTS A
GIRL COULD
LOVE!

SO WHY
AM I SO
UNHAPPY
?

IT'S
NOT LIKE
SONIC
DIDN'T
HAVE HIS
CHANCE!

IT'LL
TAKE A
WHILE--
BUT I'LL
GET
OVER
HIM--

...EVENTUALLY!

DEARLY BELOVED,
WE ARE GATHERED
HERE TODAY IN THE
SPIRIT OF JOINING
TWO BEINGS IN
THE BOND OF
MATRIMONY.

DO YOU-- SALLY
ALICIA ACORN--
TAKE ANTOINE
D'COOLETTE TO
BE YOUR LAWFUL
SPOUSE--UNTIL
DEATH DO YOU
PART?

I
DO!

CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

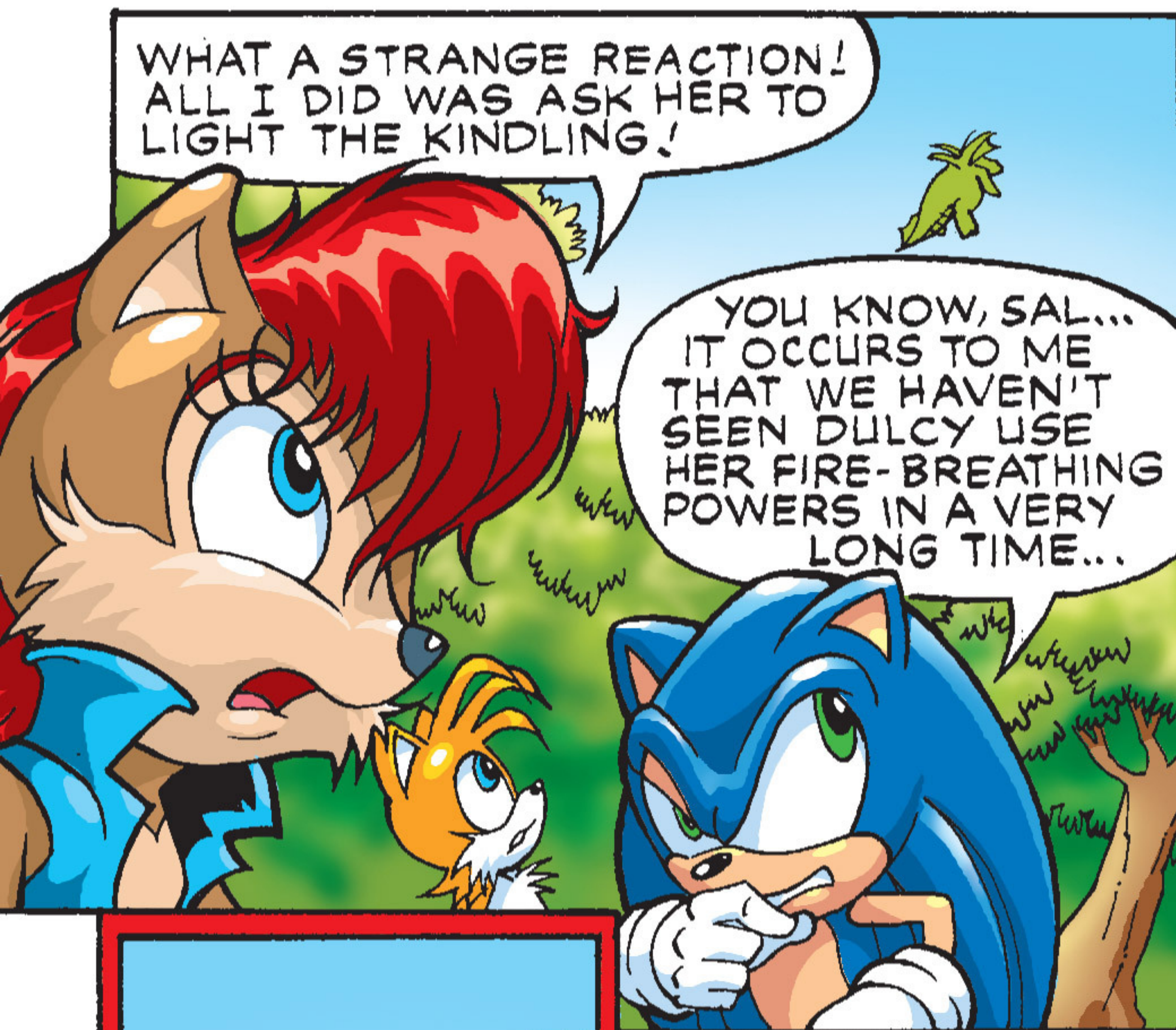
PRESENTS

DULCY THE DRAGON

IN THE PRICE OF FLAME PART ONE

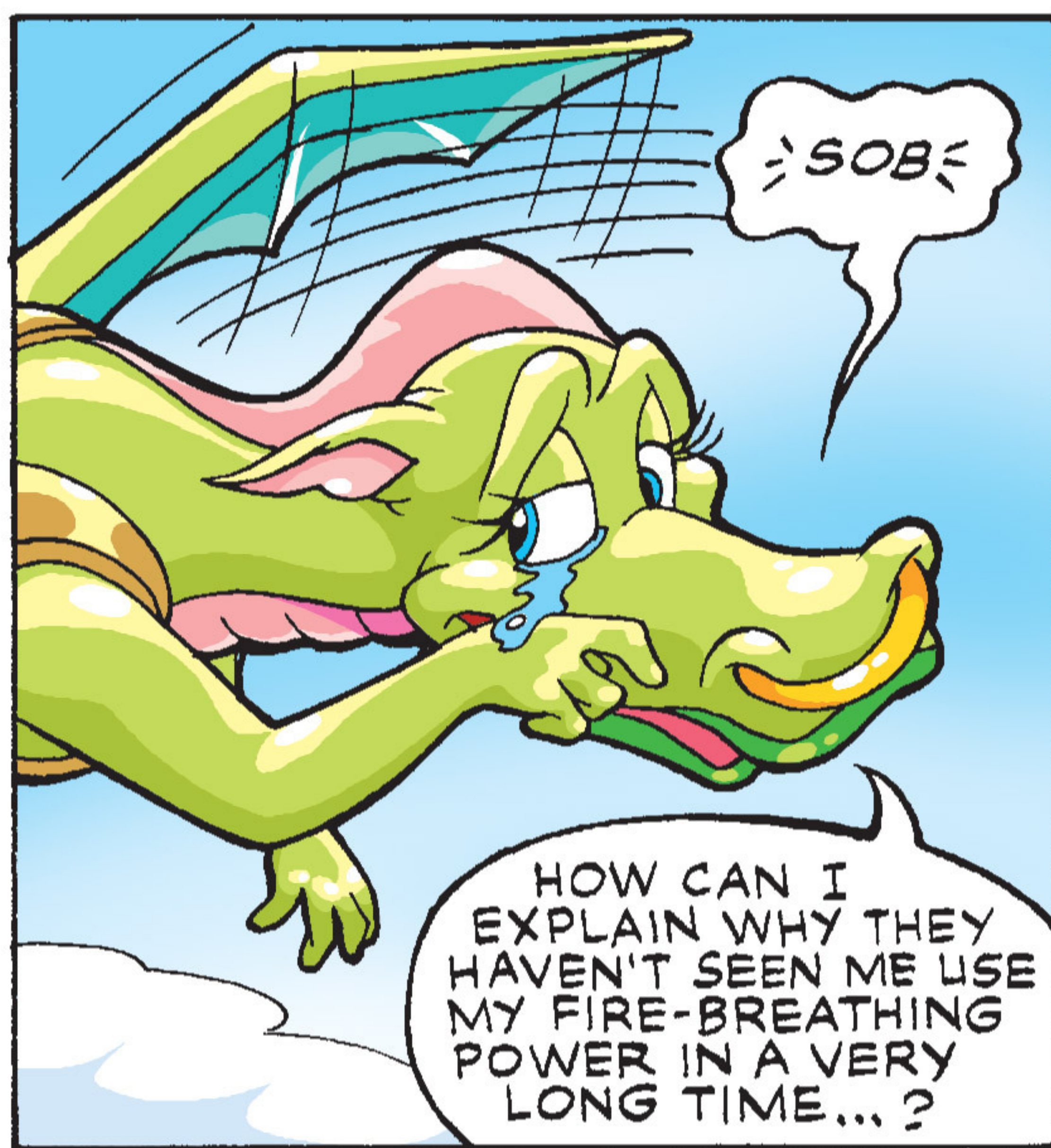


WRITES: MIKE GALLAGHER
DRAWS: ART MAWHINNEY
INKS/LETTERS: MIKE HIGGINS
COLORS: JASON JENSEN



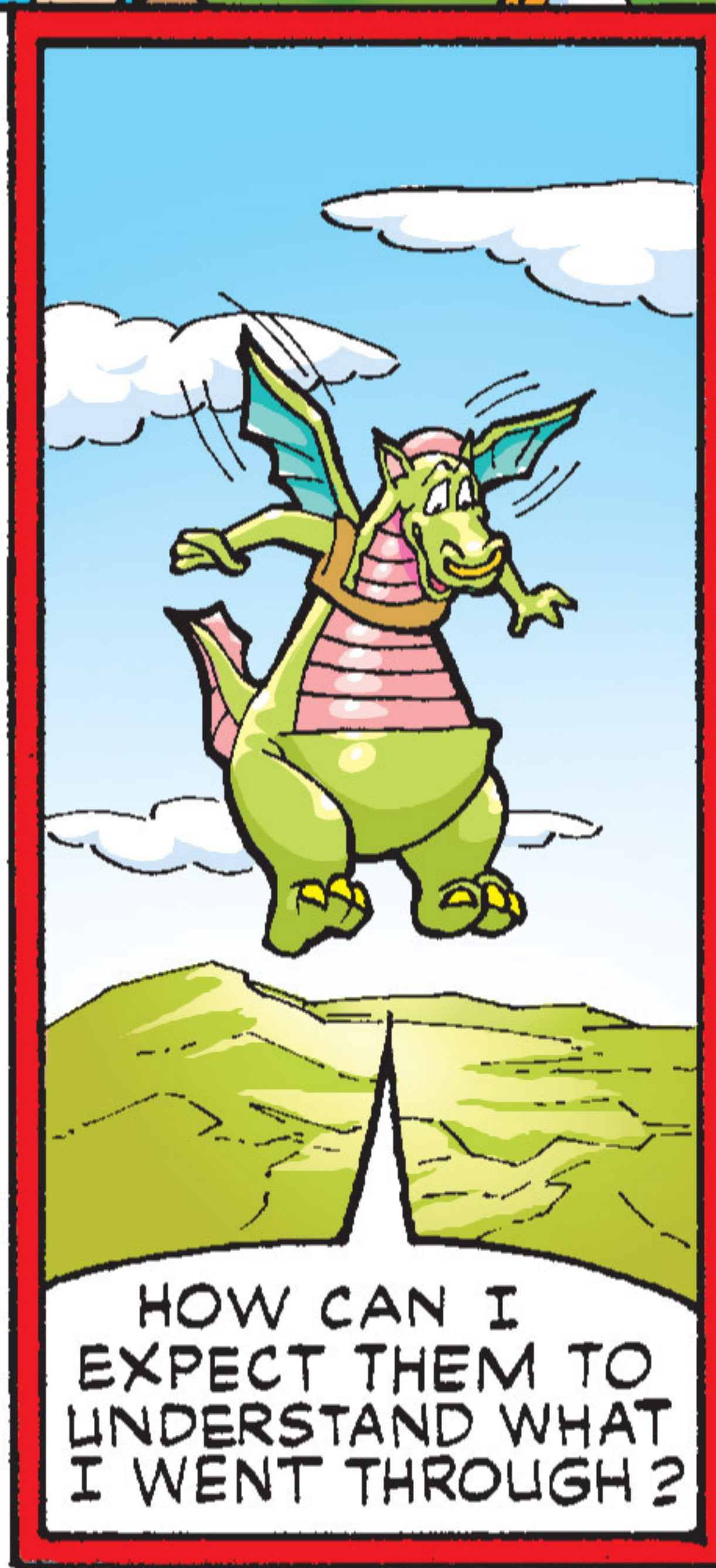
WHAT A STRANGE REACTION!
ALL I DID WAS ASK HER TO
LIGHT THE KINDLING!

YOU KNOW, SAL...
IT OCCURS TO ME
THAT WE HAVEN'T
SEEN DULCY USE
HER FIRE-BREATHING
POWERS IN A VERY
LONG TIME...

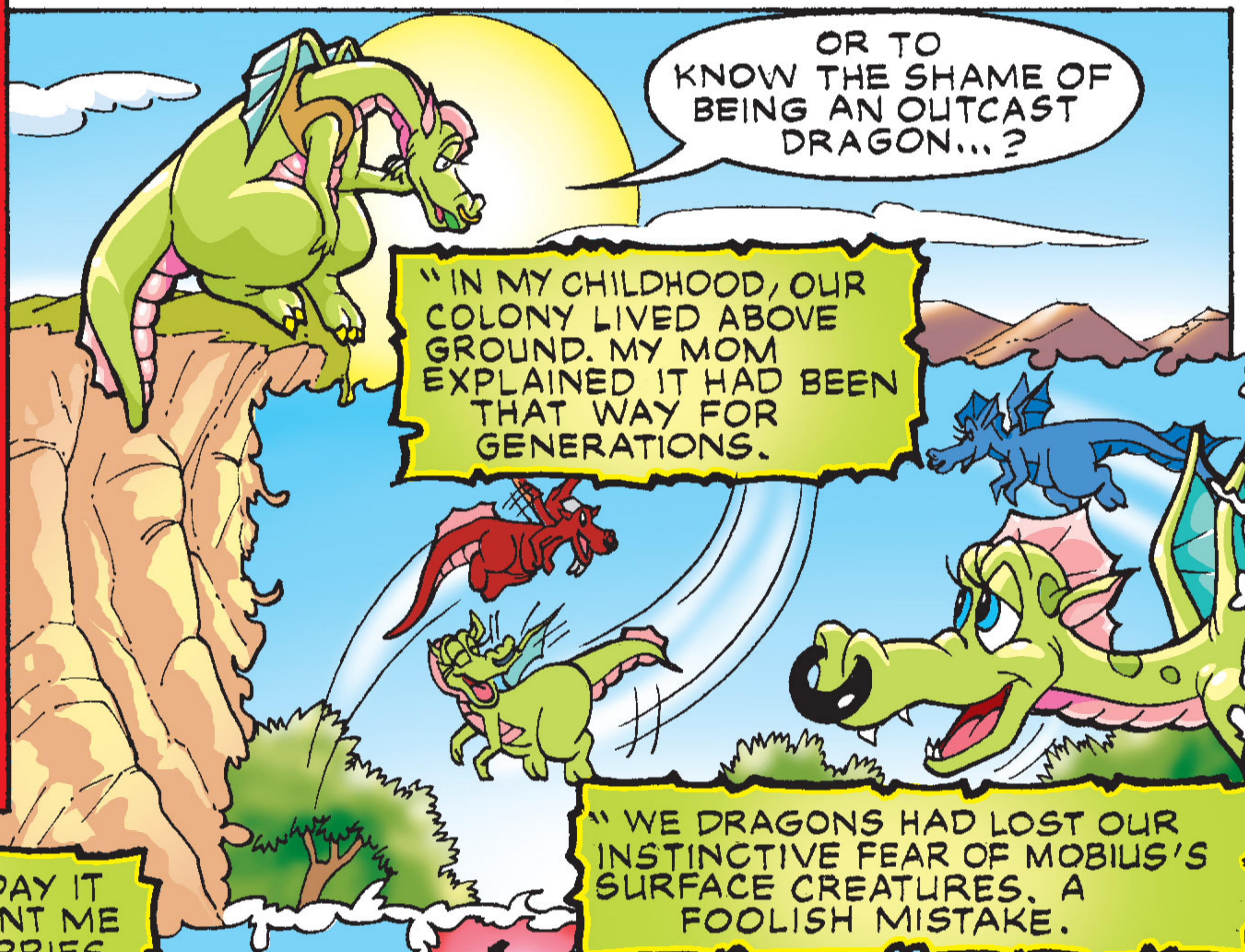


:(SOB:(

HOW CAN I
EXPLAIN WHY THEY
HAVEN'T SEEN ME USE
MY FIRE-BREATHING
POWER IN A VERY
LONG TIME... ?



HOW CAN I
EXPECT THEM TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT
I WENT THROUGH?

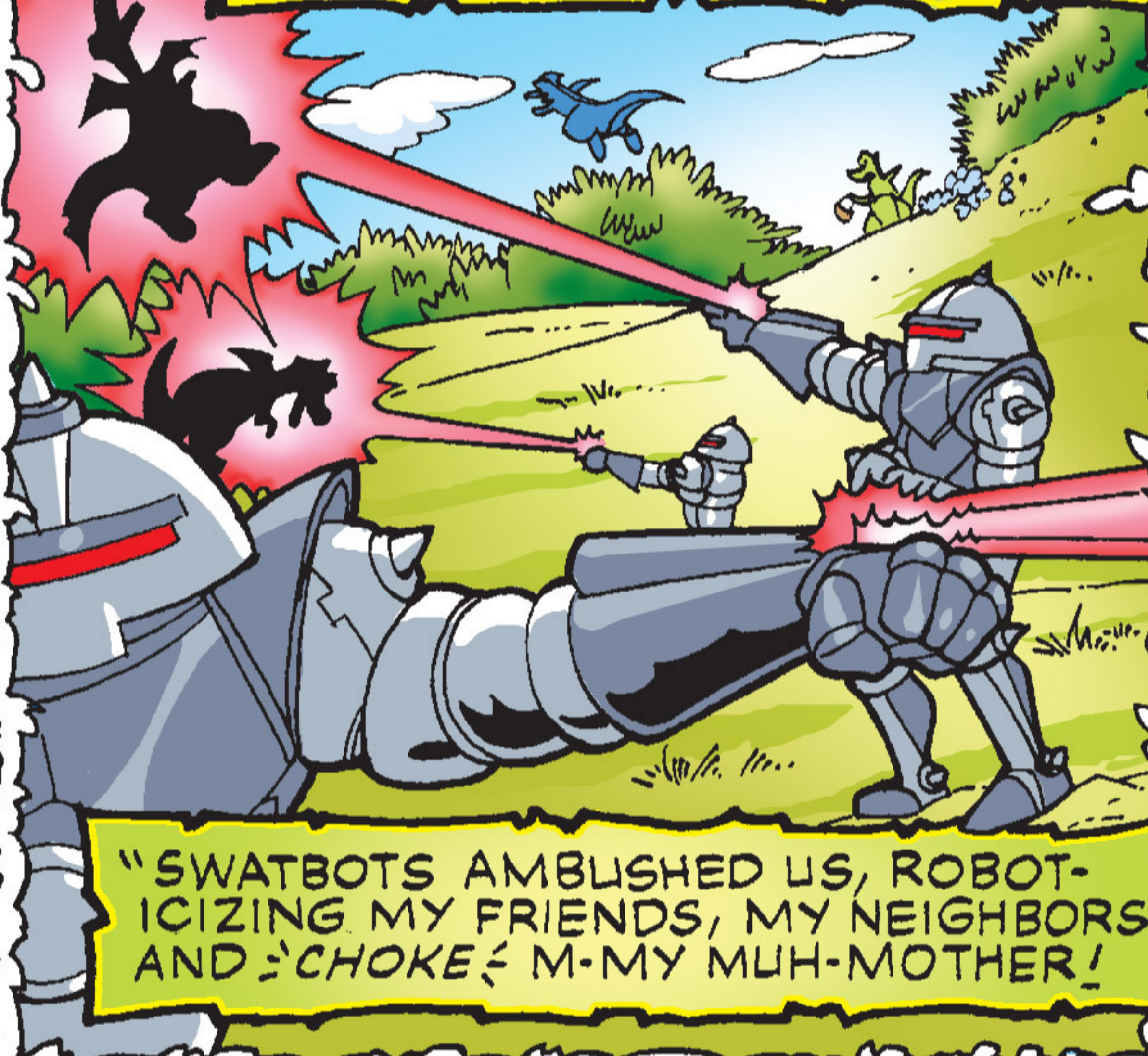


OR TO
KNOW THE SHAME OF
BEING AN OUTCAST
DRAGON... ?

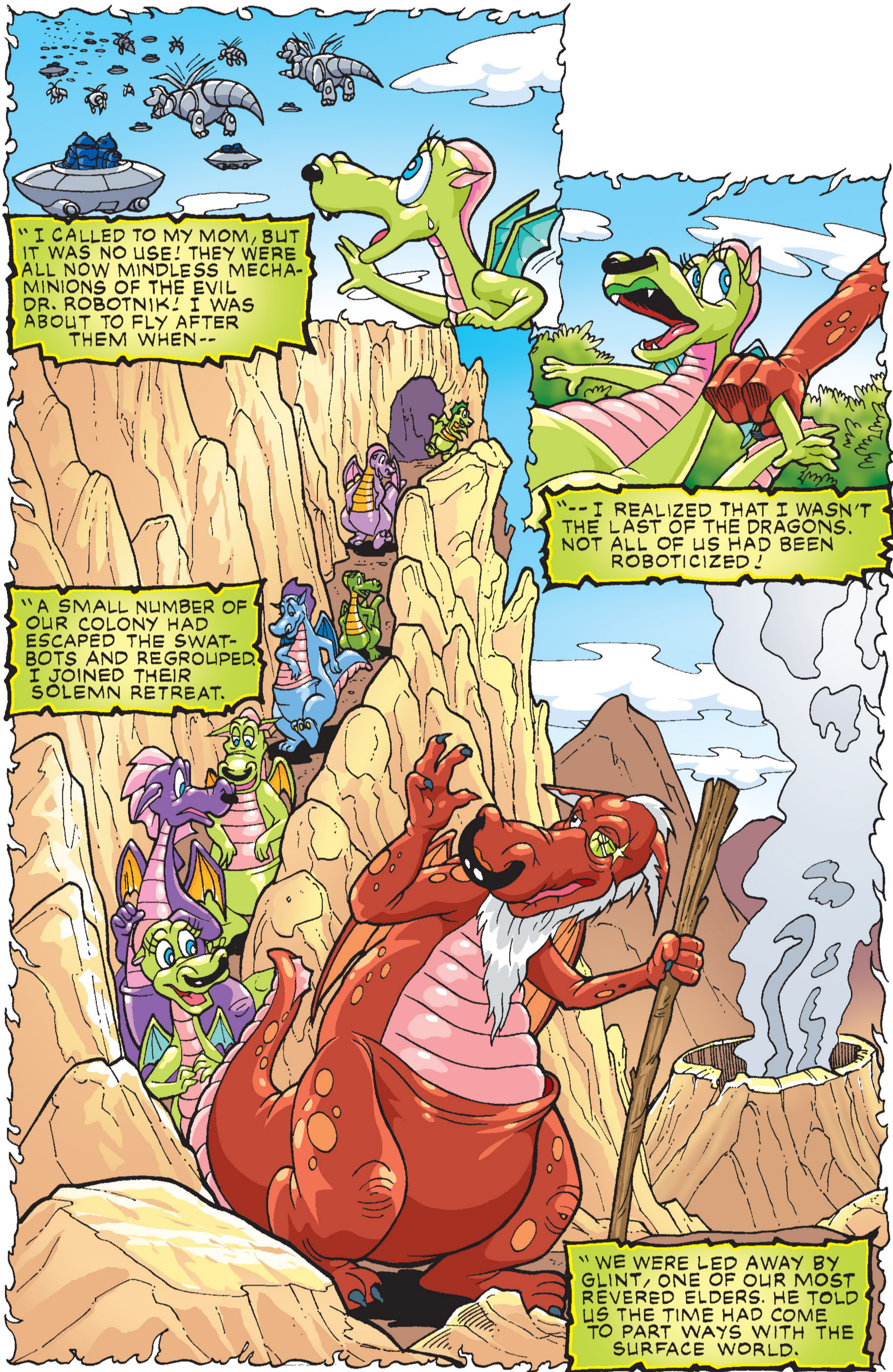
"IN MY CHILDHOOD, OUR
COLONY LIVED ABOVE
GROUND. MY MOM
EXPLAINED IT HAD BEEN
THAT WAY FOR
GENERATIONS.

"WE DRAGONS HAD LOST OUR
INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF MOBIUS'S
SURFACE CREATURES. A
FOOLISH MISTAKE.

"I REMEMBER THE DAY IT
HAPPENED. MOM SENT ME
TO PICK WHIFFLEBERRIES.
WHEN I CAME BACK OVER
THE HILL, I SAW IT...



"SWATBOTS AMBLUSHED US, ROBOT-
ICIZING MY FRIENDS, MY NEIGHBORS
AND :(CHOKE:(M-MY MUH-MOTHER!

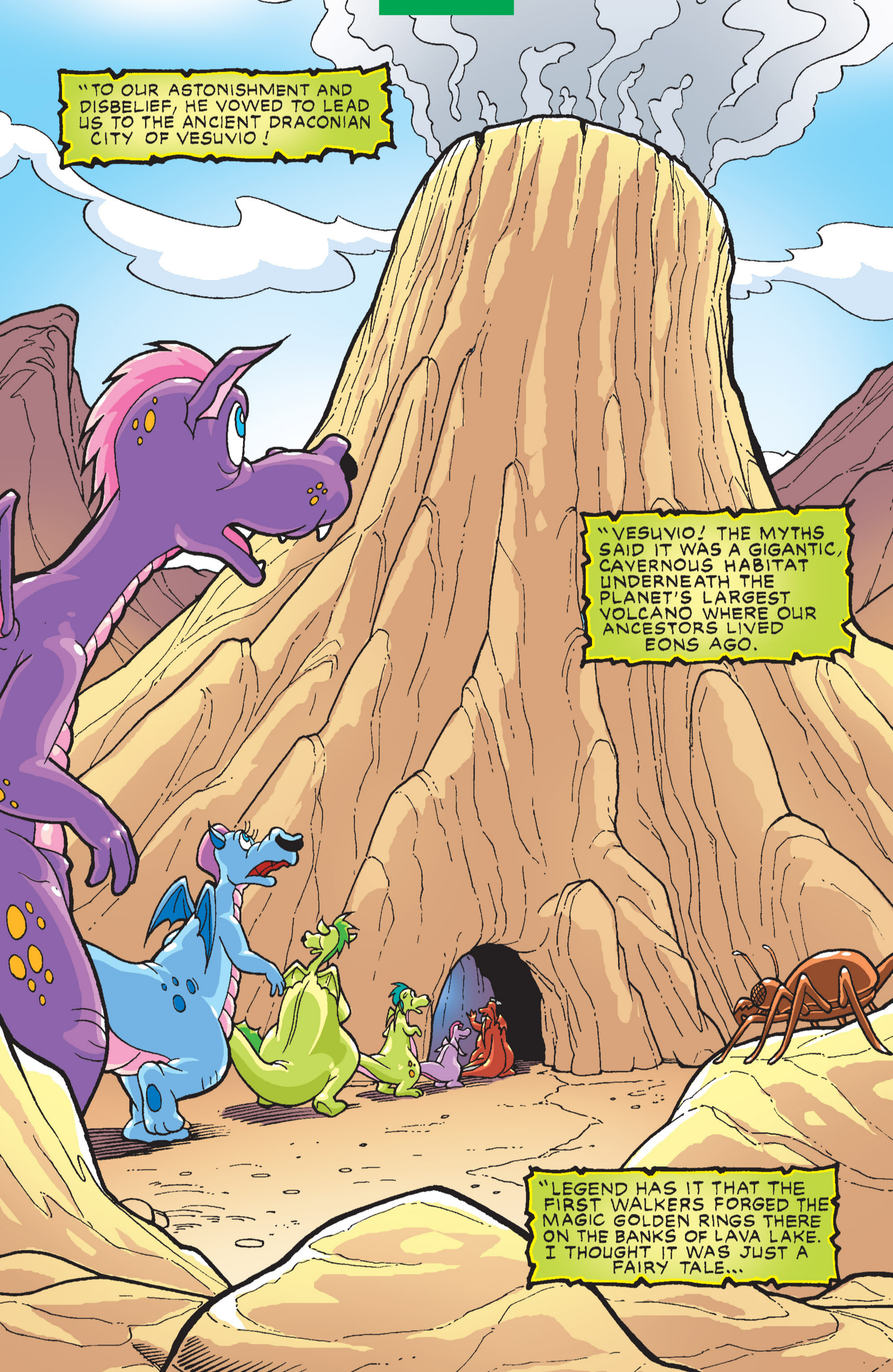


"I CALLED TO MY MOM, BUT IT WAS NO USE! THEY WERE ALL NOW MINDLESS MECHA-MINIONS OF THE EVIL DR. ROBOTNIK! I WAS ABOUT TO FLY AFTER THEM WHEN--

-- I REALIZED THAT I WASN'T THE LAST OF THE DRAGONS. NOT ALL OF US HAD BEEN ROBOTICIZED!

"A SMALL NUMBER OF OUR COLONY HAD ESCAPED THE SWAT-BOTS AND REGROUPED. I JOINED THEIR SOLEMN RETREAT.

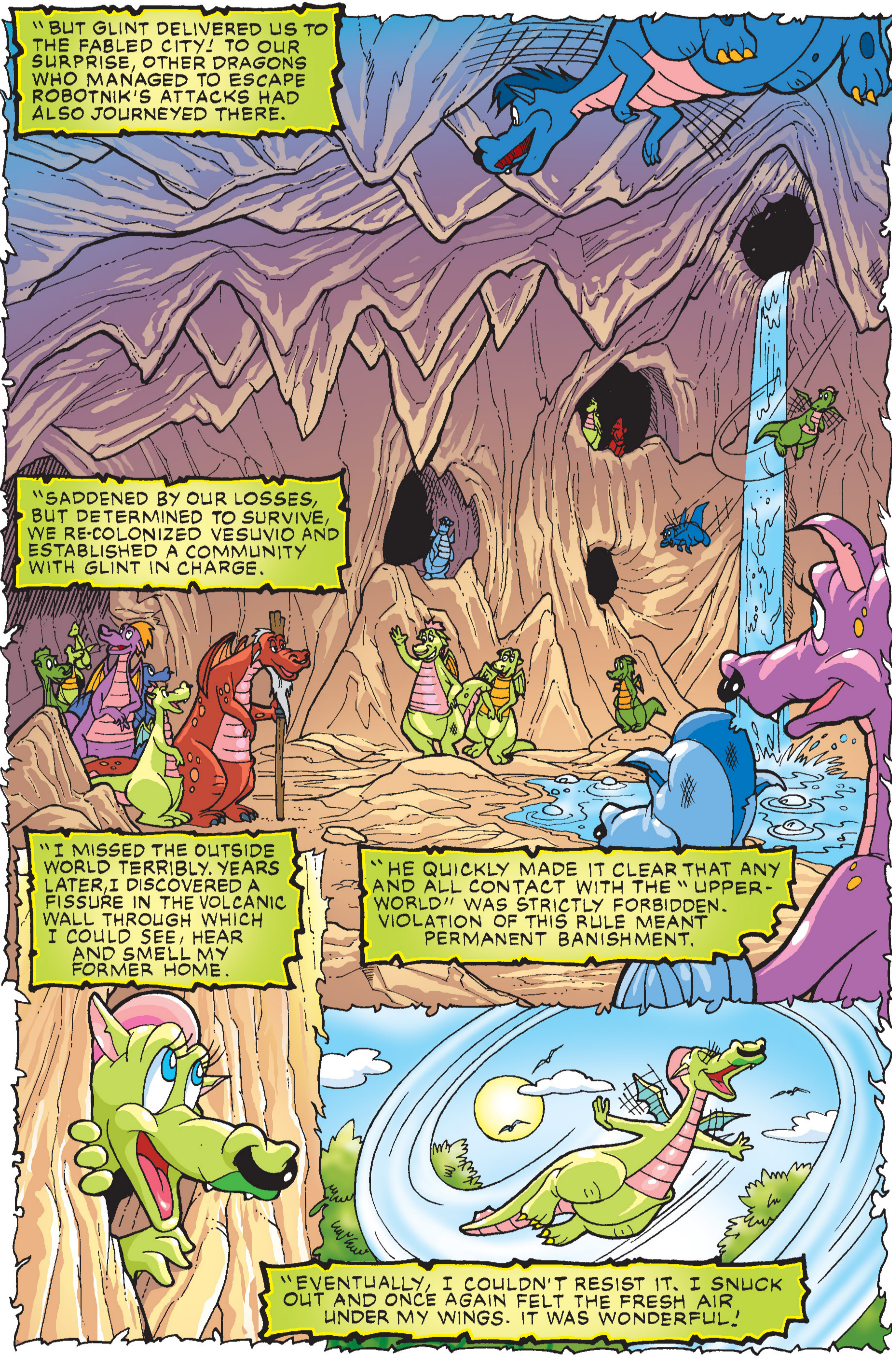
"WE WERE LED AWAY BY GLINT, ONE OF OUR MOST REVERED ELDERS. HE TOLD US THE TIME HAD COME TO PART WAYS WITH THE SURFACE WORLD.



"TO OUR ASTONISHMENT AND
DISBELIEF, HE VOWED TO LEAD
US TO THE ANCIENT DRACONIAN
CITY OF VESUVIO !

"VESUVIO! THE MYTHS
SAID IT WAS A GIGANTIC,
CAVERNOUS HABITAT
UNDERNEATH THE
PLANET'S LARGEST
VOLCANO WHERE OUR
ANCESTORS LIVED
EONS AGO.

"LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE
FIRST WALKERS FORGED THE
MAGIC GOLDEN RINGS THERE
ON THE BANKS OF LAVA LAKE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A
FAIRY TALE...



"BUT GLINT DELIVERED US TO THE FABLED CITY! TO OUR SURPRISE, OTHER DRAGONS WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE ROBOTNIK'S ATTACKS HAD ALSO JOURNEYED THERE.

"SADDENED BY OUR LOSSES, BUT DETERMINED TO SURVIVE, WE RE-COLONIZED VESUVIO AND ESTABLISHED A COMMUNITY WITH GLINT IN CHARGE.

"I MISSED THE OUTSIDE WORLD TERRIBLY. YEARS LATER, I DISCOVERED A FISSURE IN THE VOLCANIC WALL THROUGH WHICH I COULD SEE, HEAR AND SMELL MY FORMER HOME.

"HE QUICKLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANY AND ALL CONTACT WITH THE "UPPER-WORLD" WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MEANT PERMANENT BANISHMENT.

"EVENTUALLY, I COULDN'T RESIST IT. I SNUCK OUT AND ONCE AGAIN FELT THE FRESH AIR UNDER MY WINGS. IT WAS WONDERFUL!

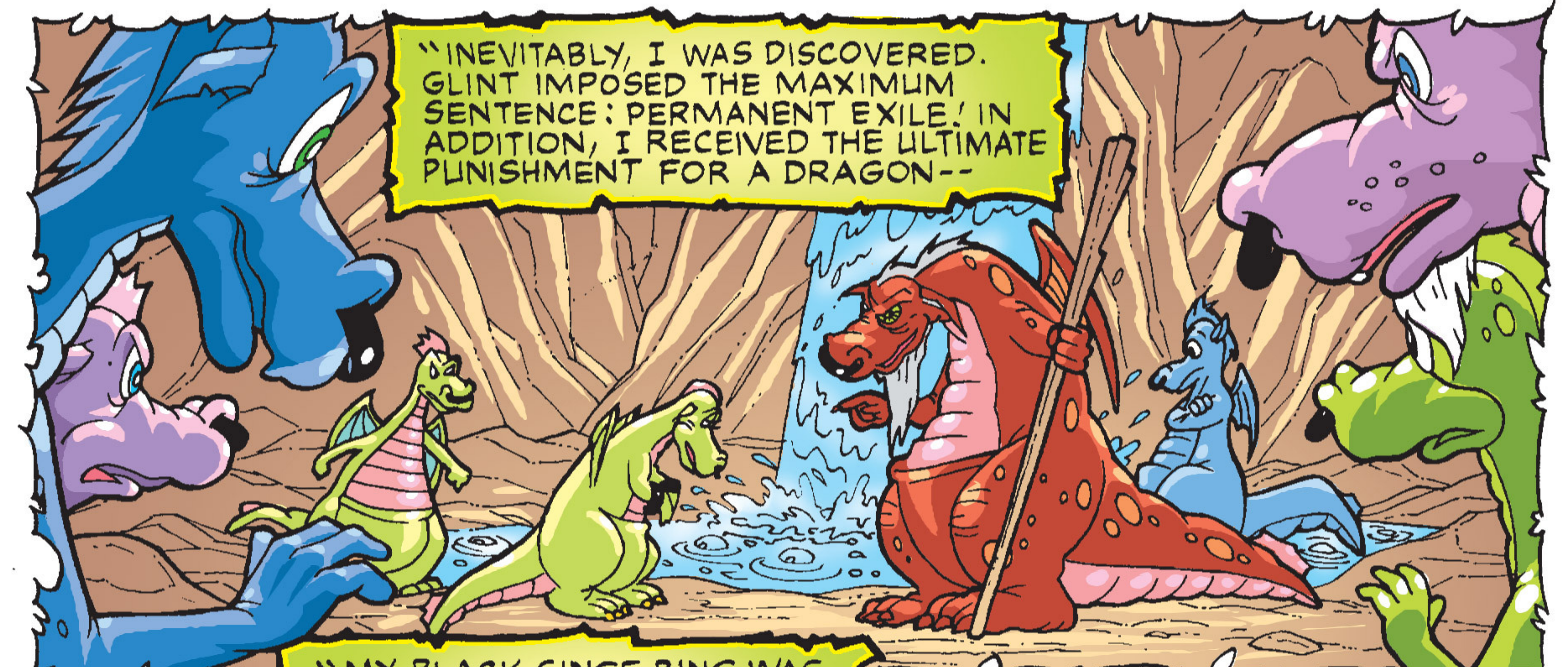
"BUT THE SHADOW OF EVIL WAS ON THE LAND. I SAW A PAIR OF THE SWATBOTS WHO HAD ROBOTICIZED MY MOTHER ABOUT TO ATTACK A SQUIRREL AND A HEDGEHOG!"

"WELL, NOT THIS TIME-- I **SLAGGED** THEM!"

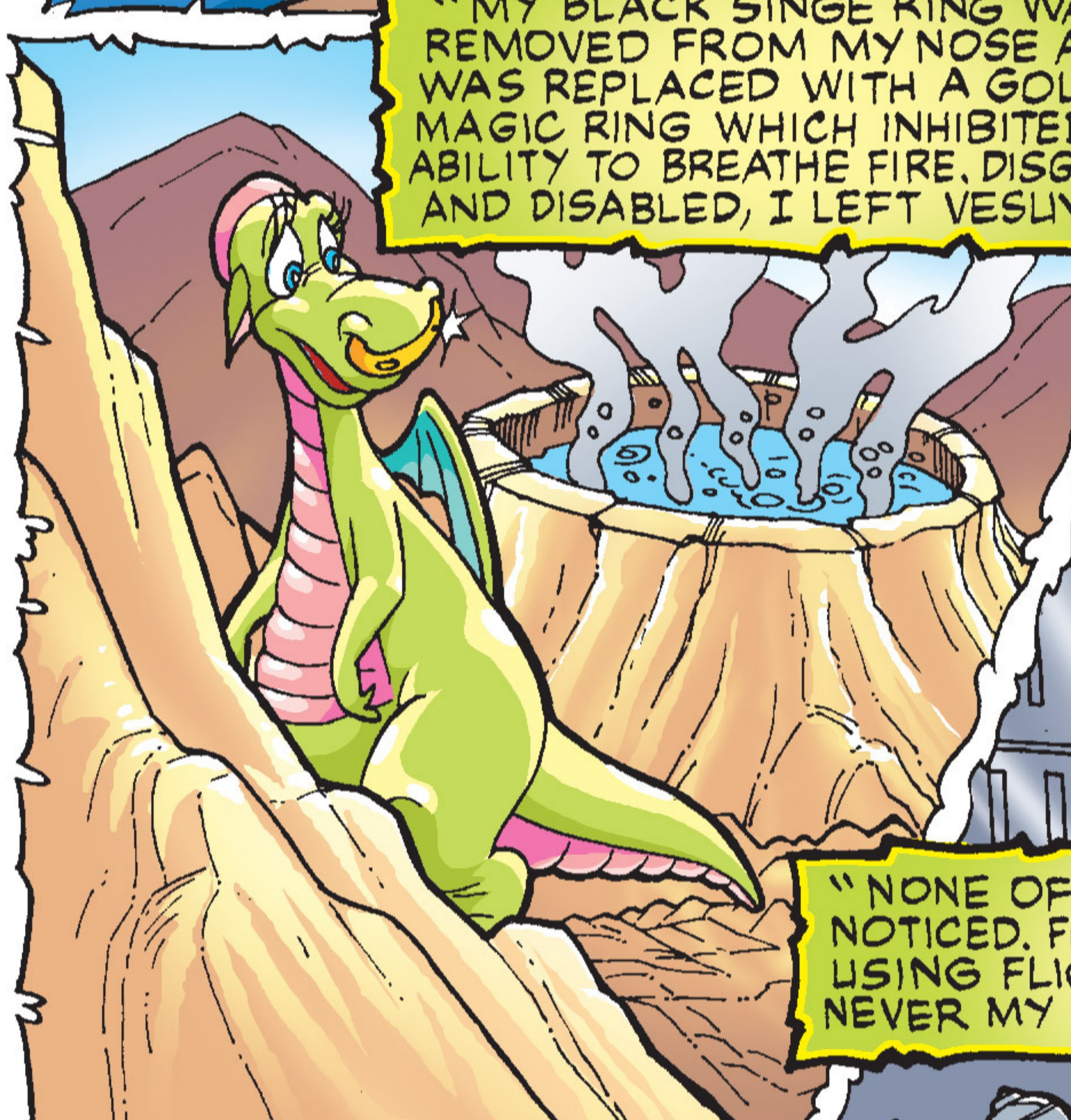
"IT TURNED OUT THE SQUIRREL WAS PRINCESS SALLY ACORN, WHO INVITED ME TO JOIN THEIR TEAM OF 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS' THAT WERE PLEDGED TO STOP ROBOTNIK."

"DESPITE THE RULES AND RISKS, I AGREED TO HELP AS OFTEN AS I COULD. WHEN I DID, IT WAS THRILLING AND REWARDING!*

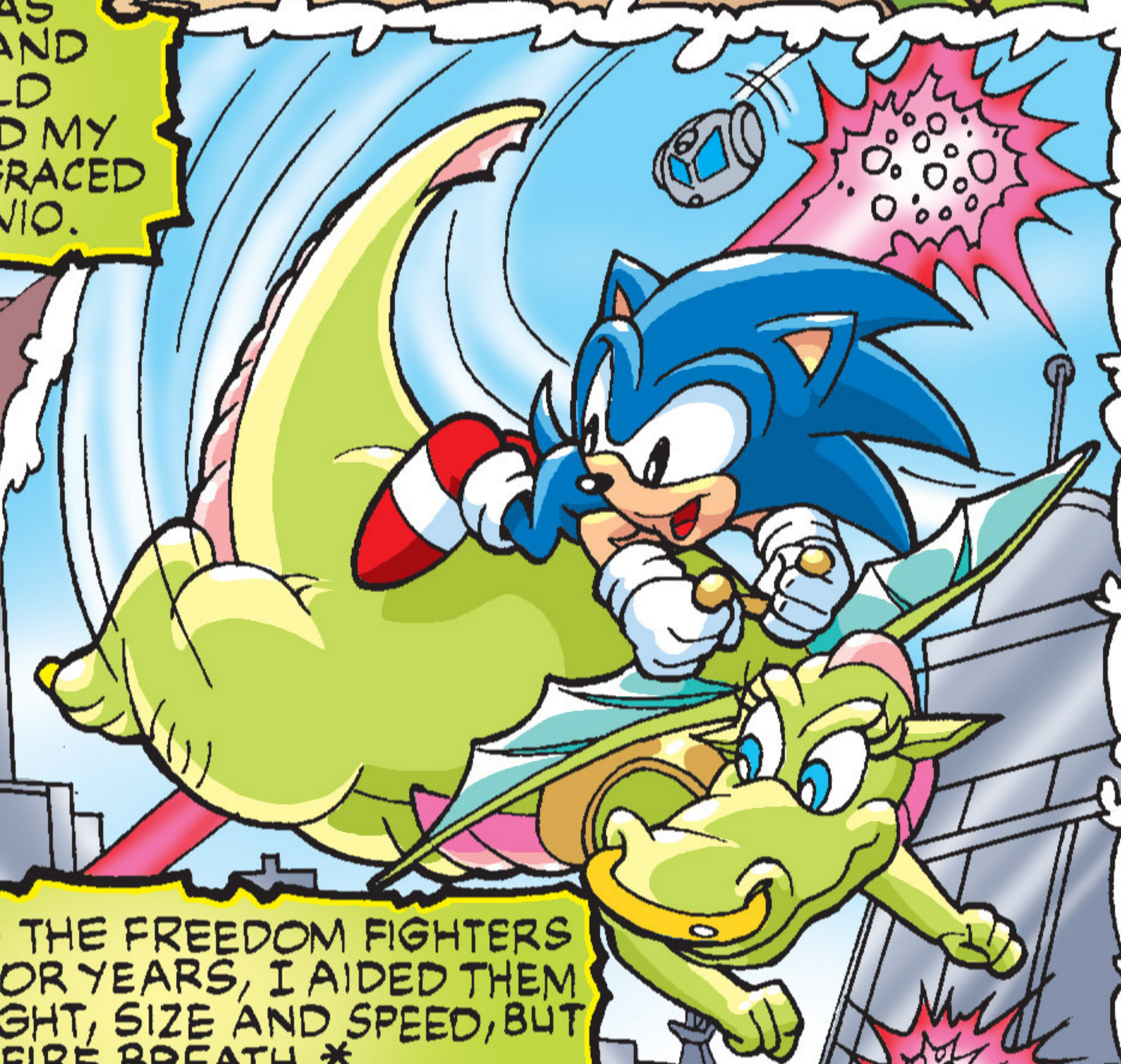
*Dulcy's first appearance was way back in STH #29 --Pelleditorito



"INEVITABLY, I WAS DISCOVERED. GLINT IMPOSED THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE: PERMANENT EXILE! IN ADDITION, I RECEIVED THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT FOR A DRAGON--




"MY BLACK SINGE RING WAS REMOVED FROM MY NOSE AND WAS REPLACED WITH A GOLD MAGIC RING WHICH INHIBITED MY ABILITY TO BREATHE FIRE. DISGRACED AND DISABLED, I LEFT VESUVIO.

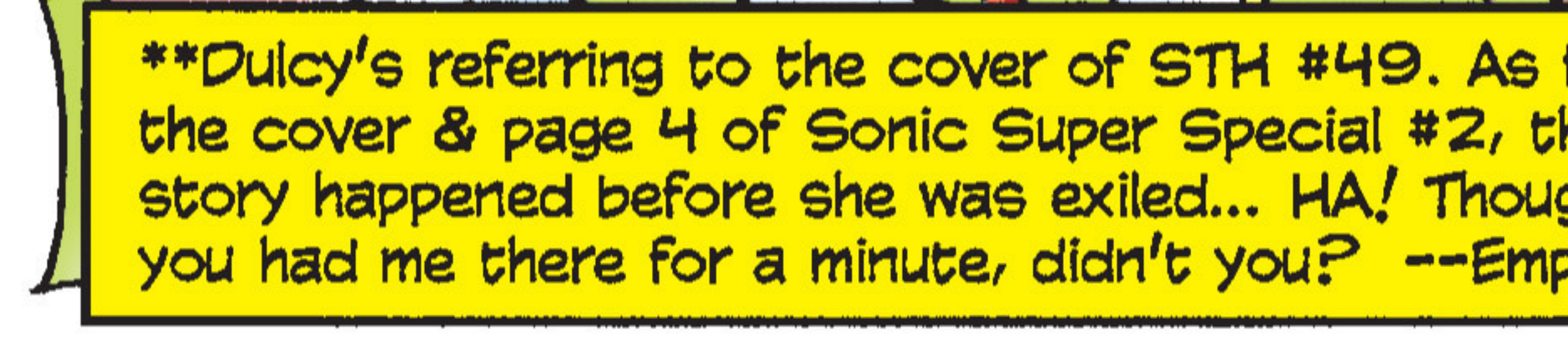


"NONE OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS NOTICED. FOR YEARS, I AIDED THEM USING FLIGHT, SIZE AND SPEED, BUT NEVER MY FIRE BREATH.*

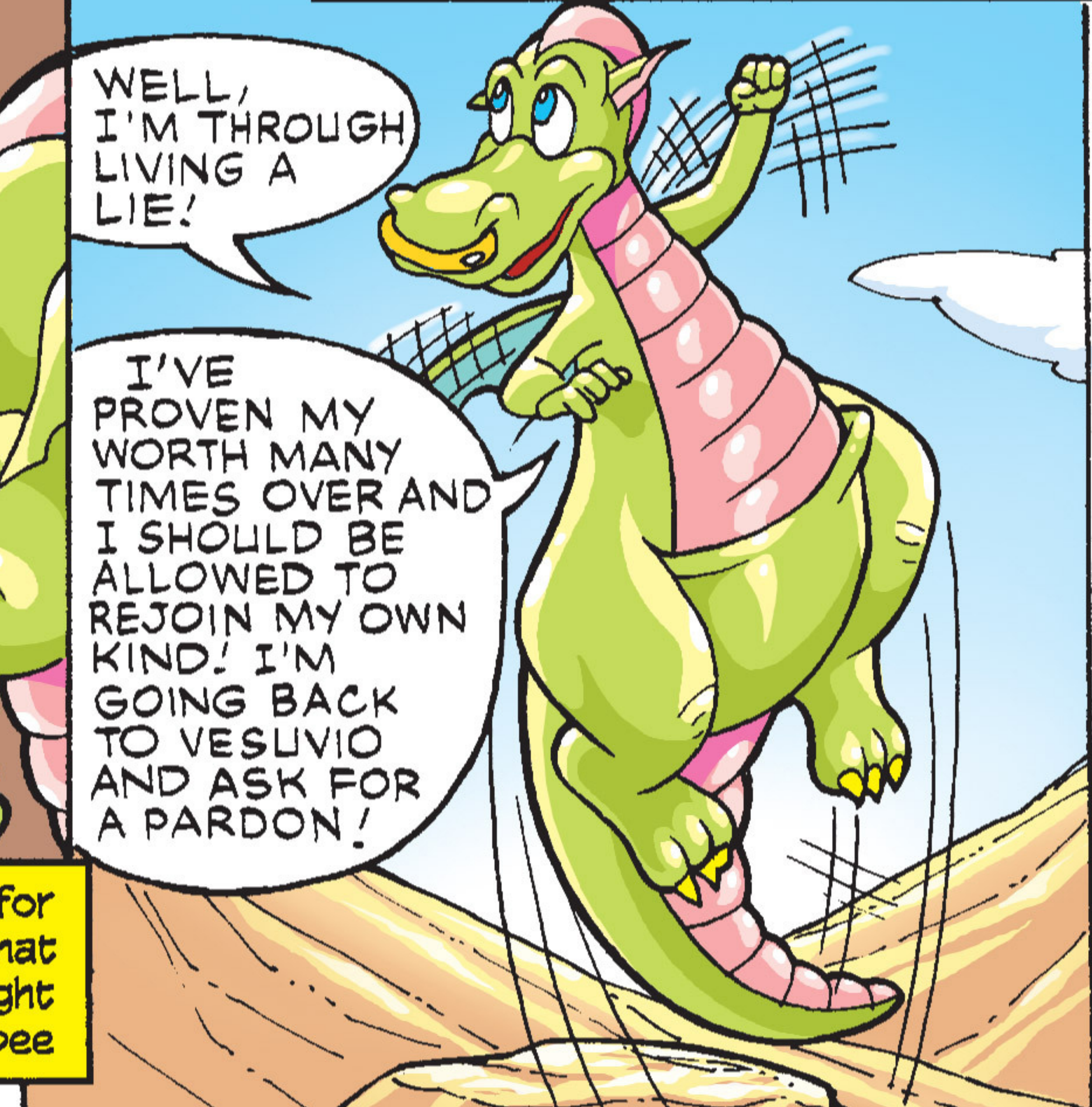
*Check the archives, folks! The last time Dulcy breathed fire was that same STH #29! --The Mikester



"I SOMETIMES GOT SO DEPRESSED ABOUT IT THAT I PAINTED MY NOSE RING BLACK, BUT IT NEVER LASTED AND I ALWAYS FELT FOOLISH AFTERWARDS."**



WELL, I'M THROUGH LIVING A LIE!



I'VE PROVEN MY WORTH MANY TIMES OVER AND I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REJOIN MY OWN KIND! I'M GOING BACK TO VESUVIO AND ASK FOR A PARDON!

**Dulcy's referring to the cover of STH #49. As for the cover & page 4 of Sonic Super Special #2, that story happened before she was exiled... HA! Thought you had me there for a minute, didn't you? --Empee

